SONIC™
THE HEDGEHOG

THE IDW COLLECTION

2

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BAD GUYS #1
WRITTEN BY **IAN FLYNN**
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LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

6

BAD GUYS #2
WRITTEN BY **IAN FLYNN**
ART BY **JACK LAWRENCE**
COLORS BY **LEONARDO ITO**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

28

BAD GUYS #3
WRITTEN BY **IAN FLYNN**
ART BY **JACK LAWRENCE** & **AARON HAMMERSTROM**
ADDITIONAL INKS BY **BRACARDI CURRY**
COLORS BY **LEONARDO ITO**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

50

BAD GUYS #4
WRITTEN BY **IAN FLYNN**
ART BY **JACK LAWRENCE**
COLORS BY **LEONARDO ITO**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

72

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #33
STORY & ART BY **EVAN STANLEY**
COLORS BY **REGGIE GRAHAM**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

94

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #34
STORY & ART BY **EVAN STANLEY**
COLORS BY **REGGIE GRAHAM**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

116

138

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #35
WRITTEN BY **EVAN STANLEY**
ART BY **ADAM BRYCE THOMAS**
COLORS BY **REGGIE GRAHAM**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

160

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #36
STORY & ART BY **EVAN STANLEY**
COLORS BY **REGGIE GRAHAM**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

182

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #37
WRITTEN BY **EVAN STANLEY**
ART BY **ADAM BRYCE THOMAS**
COLORS BY **REGGIE GRAHAM**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

204

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #38
WRITTEN BY **EVAN STANLEY**
ART BY **EVAN STANLEY** & **BRACARDI CURRY**
COLORS BY **MATT HERMS**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

226

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #39
WRITTEN BY **EVAN STANLEY**
ART BY **EVAN STANLEY** & **BRACARDI CURRY**
ADDITIONAL INKS BY **MARIA KEANE**
COLORS BY **MATT HERMS**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

248

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #40
WRITTEN BY **EVAN STANLEY**
ART BY **EVAN STANLEY** & **ADAM BRYCE THOMAS**
INKS BY **MARIA KEANE** & **JOHN WYCOUGH**
COLORS BY **HEATHER BRECKEL** & **LEONARDO ITO**
LETTERS BY **SHAWN LEE**

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"EGG BASE SIGMA...

"...A MODEST INDUSTRIAL SITE BY THE EGGMAN EMPIRE'S STANDARDS..."

...BUT IT HAS PRECISELY WHAT I NEED FOR MY PLANS.

DR. EGGMAN MAY BE A GENIUS, BUT HE'S *SLOPPY*. I'LL USE MY PERSONAL LOGIN AND TAKE OVER THE BASE.

ENTER PASSWORD

***

I HATE SNEAKING AROUND LIKE VERMIN, BUT I'M IN NO POSITION TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH THE SECURITY...

AWOOGA AWOOGA

PASSWORD REJECTED

NOW YOU CHOOSE TO EXCEED MY EXPECTATIONS, DOCTOR?

NO MATTER. I'LL JUST WARP BACK TO BASE, REGROUP, AND...

...DRAT. FORCE OF HABIT.

TIME TO TEST OUT THE MULTI-TOOL HEEL SPURS!

ACTIVATING ELECTRO-SPUR...

NOT THE MOST IDEAL WAY TO FIELD TEST THESE...

POW

...AND *DEFINITELY* NOT THE TIME TO STRESS TEST THEM!

SLOPPY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASSUMED THE CODES WOULD WORK!

THAT KIND OF UNEARNED ARROGANCE IS *PRECISELY* WHAT UNDERMINES DR. EGGMAN.

I MUST BE *BETTER* THAN MY IDOL.

BUT FIRST, FOCUS ON SOLVING THE PROBLEM AT HAND. ESCAPE. QUICKLY. QUIETLY.

AVOID FIGHTING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...

MUCH LATER...

=SIGH= PROGRESS LOG UPDATE. I'VE HIT A ROADBLOCK.

I'VE AMASSED A SUBSTANTIAL RESERVE OF EGGMAN TECHNOLOGY* BUT MY CURRENT BASE OF OPERATIONS LACKS THE FACILITIES NECESSARY TO UTILIZE THEM.

*SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #14--EDS.

MY CURRENT LONG-TERM PLANS ARE ON HOLD UNTIL I HAVE THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE MY PRINCIPLE CREATIONS.

THIS WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER IF I STILL HAD THE WARP TOPAZ. BUT DR. EGGMAN... CHOSE TO SQUANDER THAT RESOURCE.**

AND I LACK THE PHYSICAL PROWESS TO USE BRUTE FORCE AS SONIC WOULD.

**STH #25.

I NEED A REPLACEMENT THAT ALLOWS ME TO COMPETE EVENLY WITH MY ENEMIES.

MY HEEL SPURS AREN'T SUFFICIENT. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND...

...BUT IT REQUIRES RESOURCES I CAN'T OBTAIN AS I AM. WHICH BRINGS ME BACK TO THE PRESENT CONDITION.

I REITERATE: ROADBLOCK.

I MUST PERSEVERE.

DR. EGGMAN'S AMBITIONS WILL *NEVER* ADVANCE SO LONG AS HE'S CAUGHT IN HIS FIXATION ON SONIC.

IT'S UP TO ME TO BREAK THE CYCLE AND CONQUER THE WORLD FOR HIM.

WHICH IS EXPONENTIALLY MORE DIFFICULT, SINCE I AM NO LONGER IN HIS GOOD GRACES.

BADNIKS ARE LIMITED IN THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. MY PERSONAL ENFORCERS CAN'T BE COMPLETED UNTIL I HAVE THAT BASE.

I NEED HELP. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THE MISTAKE OF A TRUSTING PARTNERSHIP AGAIN.

IF THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO HATED THE DOCTOR AND SONIC MUTUALLY...

...I COULD POTENTIALLY SWAY THEM...

...AND THEN DISPOSE OF THEM.

EUREKA.

EVERHOLD PRISON.

WHO ARE YOU? WHO LET YOU IN?!

PLEASE, CALM YOURSELF, WARDEN...

...I'M HERE FOR THE JOB INTERVIEW, REMEMBER? THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WING. I THINK MY RESUME MEETS YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

OH, YES. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.

LET'S HEAD THERE NOW. DON'T FORGET THE KEYS, MM?

OF COURSE. I LIKE YOUR ENTHUSIASM.

THE... *UM*... POSITION HAS BEEN HARD TO FILL. THE INMATES WE'RE HOLDING ARE SOME OF THE WORST IN THE WORLD.

MOST OF THEM HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO FIGHT ***SONIC THE HEDGEHOG***.

GOODNESS. HOW FRIGHTFUL.

YOU THERE! HURRY! YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED! LET ME OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THAT IS ***MIMIC***, A SPY AND ASSASSIN IN DEBT TO DR. EGGMAN. HE BETRAYED HIS TEAMMATES, FRAMED SONIC FOR NUMEROUS CRIMES, THE LIST GOES ON.

DON'T SELL ME SHORT, WARDEN. I'M A ***PROFESSIONAL***. I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T APPROVE OF MY WORK.

THESE TWO ARE ***ROUGH*** AND ***TUMBLE***. THEY'RE NOT VERY BRIGHT OR SKILLED, BUT THEY STILL MANAGE TO BE TROUBLE.

THEY'VE HELD TWO TOWNS HOSTAGE AND WORKED FOR DR. EGGMAN--AND THAT'S JUST ***THIS*** YEAR.

WE NEVER SHOULDA TRIED TO TAKE OVER BARRICADE TOWN AGAIN.

HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW THEY'D STILL HAVE ALL THOSE WISPONS?

STAY BACK! THAT'S ZAVOK, THE LEADER OF THE DEADLY SIX.

HE'S A FEROCIOUS BEAST WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS.

INDEED. HE CAN CONTROL ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELDS. PUTTING HIM IN THIS ARCHAIC CELL WAS A CLEVER MOVE. IF HE WERE IN A STANDARD CELL, HE COULD CONTROL THE LOCK AND RELEASE HIMSELF.

WOW! YOU REALLY DID YOUR HOMEWORK FOR THIS JOB!

"JOB?" WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING AT, DOCTOR?

WAIT-- YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

THAT IS DR. STARLINE. PROTÉGÉ TO DR. EGGMAN.

YOU--?!

SLEEP.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS HAD HYPNOTIC TOOLS? WHY DID YOU BOTHER WITH THE CACOPHONIC CONCH?*

I HAVE A VARIETY OF TOOLS, AND I KNOW WHEN BEST TO USE THEM.

*STH#25.

PLUS, I DOUBT IT WOULD DO MUCH ON YOUR IRON WILL.

SAVE YOUR PLATITUDES. WE ARE ENEMIES, EGGMAN FLUNKY.

FORMER FLUNKY.

GENTLEMEN, IT HURTS TO SAY IT, BUT *I WAS WRONG.*

DR. EGGMAN IS *NOT* THE MARVEL I THOUGHT HE WAS. HE *USED* ME, JUST LIKE HE'S USED ALL OF YOU.

BUT I WON'T ALLOW THAT INDIGNITY TO STAND! AND NEITHER SHOULD ANY OF YOU!

I HAVE A PLAN. AND TOGETHER, WITH OUR COMBINED SKILLS, WE *CAN GET REVENGE ON DR. EGGMAN!*

HARD PASS.

I DON'T DO TEAMS ANYMORE.

THEN THINK OF IT AS A BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP. I *NEED* YOUR SKILLS FOR MY PLAN TO WORK.

IN RETURN, I CAN DELETE YOU FROM THE EGGNET. DR. EGGMAN WILL HAVE NO RECORD OF YOU, AND YOU'LL BE *FREE* OF HIS SURVEILLANCE.

WE AIN'T WORKING WITH YOU! YOU DUMPED METAL VIRUS GOO ON US!*

THAT WAS DR. EGGMAN'S PLAN! I HAD *NO IDEA* HE WOULD DO THAT TO YOU!

PULL THE OTHER ONE. WE AIN'T CHUMPS!

*STH#15.

I'LL BUILD YOU WEAPONS TO CRUSH YOUR ENEMIES. FOR FREE.

MAKE MINE TAIL-SHAPED!

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

YOU ATTEMPTED TO ENSLAVE ME AND MY PACK. THERE IS *NOTHING* YOU CAN OFFER THAT WILL CONVINCE ME TO FOLLOW YOU.

HOW FORTUITOUS. FOR MY PLAN TO SUCCEED, WE'D NEED TO FOLLOW YOU--MY *NEW* MASTER.

I AM NO LEADER. I NEVER PRETENDED TO BE.

I AM AN ALLY, A SUPPORTER--A FLUNKY. I LIVE TO SERVE.

MY MISTAKE WAS FOLLOWING THE WRONG LEADER. DR. EGGMAN DEPLOYED THE METAL VIRUS HAPHAZARDLY, LETTING IT SPREAD AT RANDOM. THE MINUTE HE LOST CONTROL, HE ABANDONED HIS AMBITIONS.

BUT YOU? *YOU* TOOK COMMAND OF THE SITUATION INSTANTLY! *YOU* TOOK COMMAND OF THE ZOMBOTS WITH RUTHLESS EFFICIENCY. *YOU* MAXIMIZED THE POWER OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS INSTEAD OF SQUANDERING THEIR POTENTIAL!

YOU ARE EVERYTHING I ADMIRED IN DR. EGGMAN AND MORE!

YOU'RE ALSO A VAINGLORIOUS BRUTE WHO THINKS HIMSELF A CONQUEROR.

I HAD A PERFECT PLAN TO SALVAGE THE METAL VIRUS PLAGUE, BUT YOU AND YOUR MINIONS RUINED EVERYTHING.

I'M SEPARATED FROM DR. EGGMAN *BECAUSE OF YOU.*

SO I'LL FEED YOUR EGO, GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT, THEN LEAD YOU BY THE NOSE TO YOUR DESTRUCTION. I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED *AND* SWEET REVENGE.

YOU SAD, WEAK LITTLE MAN. JUST LIKE EGGMAN, YOU'RE NOT NEARLY AS CUNNING AS YOU THINK.

YOU'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING. NO DOUBT WE'RE *ALL* EXPENDABLE IN YOUR SCHEME.

THAT SUITS ME FINE. I HAVE NO LOVE FOR THESE LOWLIFES.

BUT I *WILL* SACRIFICE THEM TO STRIKE DOWN EGGMAN AND FIND MY WAY BACK TO MY PACK.

AND THEN YOU WILL PAY DEARLY FOR TRYING TO USE ME *TWICE.*

SO THIS PLAN OF YOURS... IS FOR *MY* BENEFIT?

YES, SIR. WE ALL STAND TO GAIN BY IT, BUT I HEREBY PLEDGE MYSELF TO YOU.

THEN YOU SHALL BE MY *DEADLY FOUR.*

OH, *THANK YOU,* SIR.

AUUGA AUUGA

SLAM

THE WHOLE PRISON IS NOW ON *HIGH ALERT*. NOT THAT YOU'RE GETTING OUT--THAT DOOR ONLY ANSWERS TO *MY* VOICE.

THANKS FOR THE NAP, THOUGH. IT WAS LOVELY.

AUGH!

MY HEEL-SPURS ARE LOADED WITH A MILD NEUROTOXIN. THAT WILL KEEP HIM OUT OF THE WAY. CAN YOU UNLOCK MIMIC'S CELL?

NOT FROM HERE. RELEASE ME! HURRY!

FINALLY!

SECURITY AUTHORIZATION BETA-GAMMA-ZERO-ONE.

THANKS FOR ALL THE GOOD TIMES!

DON'T GET *TOO* COMFY IN THERE!

WARDEN! WHAT'S GOING ON?

ZAVOK'S BREAKING OUT OF HIS CELL!

HE'S NOT OUT YET, BUT I NEED THE *THREE OF YOU* TO HELP ME PACIFY HIM!

YOU! YOU'RE WITH ME! *YOU TWO!* FOLLOW US!

SLEEP!

*

HANDS IN THE AIR!

CLUD

WHY ARE WE RUSHING? USE YOUR HYPNO-GIZMO ON EVERYONE!

IT'S A PRECISION INSTRUMENT, NOT CROWD CONTROL.

IF WE'RE TO ESCAPE, WE NEED TO SHUT DOWN SECURITY AND--

HALT! SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY!

TURN INTO THE WARDEN! TELL THEM TO STAND DOWN!

THEY'LL SEE ME CHANGE, MORON! GET ZAVOK TO--!

TIME TO SMASH SOME HEADS!

GONNA MAKE 'EM CRUMBLE!

IT'S BREAK-OUT TIME FOR **ROUGH & TUMBLE!**

SMASH

SMASH

AS I WAS SAYING-- YOU COULD'VE TAKEN CONTROL OF THEIR WISPONS.

YES. BUT LET THEM PROVE THEIR WORTH.

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET!

RAAAUGH!

UH...

WE NEED THEM FOR THE PLAN, SIR.

FINE. I SUPPOSE I MUST CODDLE YOU INFERIOR NON-ZETI.

BWOOSH

ONWARD, MY WARRIORS.

I'LL SCOUT FOR STRAGGLERS.

YOU. WISPON. NOW.

O-OF COURSE. B-BUT WHY--?

FOR AIDING A JAIL-BREAK, SCUMBAG.

BWOOSH

FOOLED YOU, EH?

CONTROL ROOM SECURE.

EXCELLENT WORK! NOW TO SHUT OFF THE ALARMS AND--

NO.

"NO?"

UNLOCK ALL THE CELLS. SCRAMBLE COMMUNICATIONS. SEND THIS ENTIRE FACILITY INTO CHAOS.

YOU'RE A VISIONARY, SIR.

SO... WE DOIN' THIS? WORKING WITH THESE BOZOS, I MEAN?

I AIN'T GOT ANY BETTER IDEAS, DO YOU?

IF HE CAN GET EGGMAN OFF MY BACK, THEN I'LL TAKE THAT AS FAIR COMPENSATION.

STUPENDOUS DEBUT, EVERYONE. NOW THAT WE'RE WARMED UP, LET'S DO SOME *REAL DAMAGE!*

ART BY DIANA SKELLY

"I'VE ASSEMBLED QUITE THE MOTLEY CREW.

"MIMIC, THE EXPERT INFILTRATOR...

"...TUMBLE, A POWERFUL OAF...

"...ROUGH, A VICIOUS SCOUNDREL...

"...AND ZAVOK, THE FEARSOME LEADER OF THE DEADLY SIX."

EVERY ONE OF THEM THINKS WE'RE IN THIS TO GET REVENGE ON DR. EGGMAN.

BUT *NONE* OF THEM SUSPECT THEY'RE ALL JUST PARTS IN A MUCH LARGER PLAN TO PUT ME BACK IN HIS GOOD GRACES.

SOON THE NAME "*DR. STARLINE*" WILL BE WELCOME IN THE EGGMAN EMPIRE ONCE AGAIN!

BUT FIRST, I NEED THE POWER TO KEEP PACE IN A WORLD OF SUPERSONIC HEDGEHOGS...

EARLIER.

THESE ARE OUR TARGETS, GENTLEMEN. *POWER CORES.*

HA! WHAT'RE WE S'POSED TO DO WITH THOSE? BUILD A BALL PIT?

WE'VE BEEN BANNED FROM ALL OF 'EM 'CAUSE WE KEEP KICKIN' OUT ALL THE KIDS.

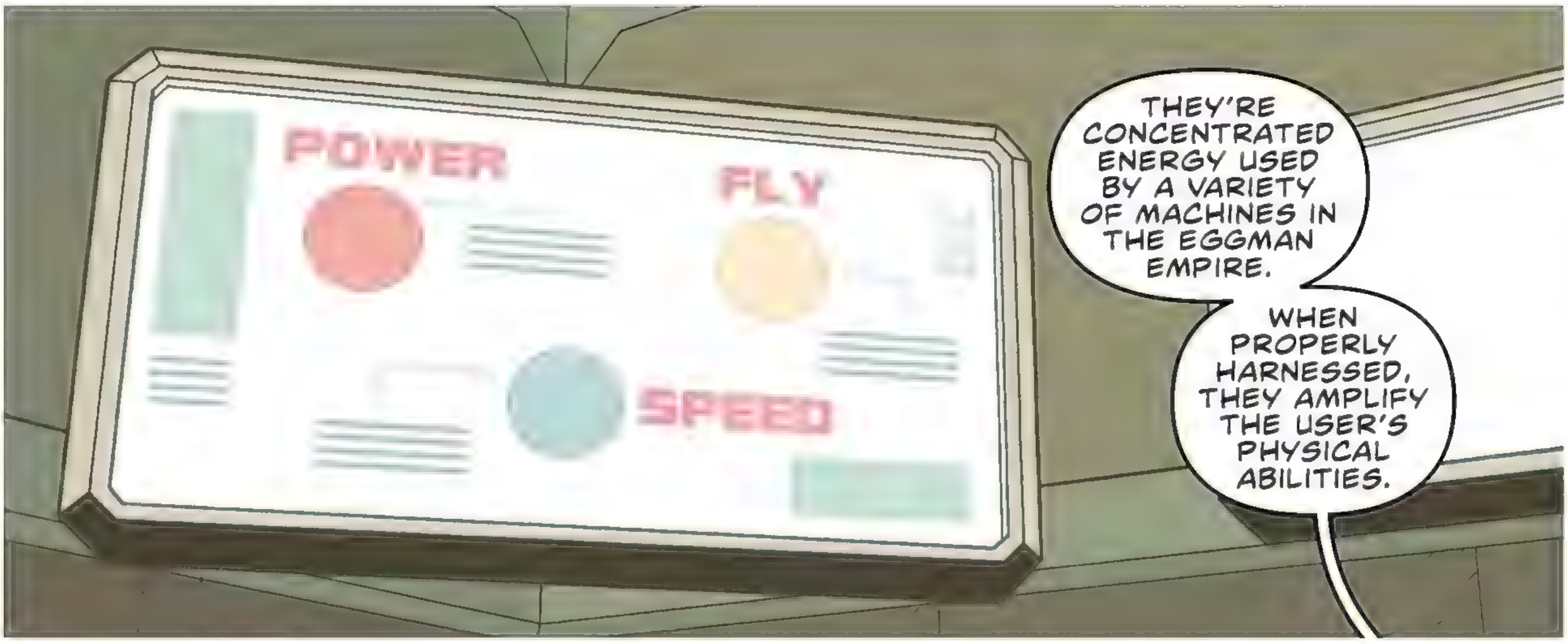
THEY WANT THE TURF? THEY GOTTA *FIGHT* FOR IT.

THAT'S EGGMAN TECH, ISN'T IT?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GET ME *OFF* HIS RADAR, NOT TICK HIM OFF MORE.

WE *NEED* THEIR POWER FOR PHASE TWO OF THE PLAN. *THEN* YOU'LL BE ERASED FROM HIS RECORDS, *NOT* BEFORE.

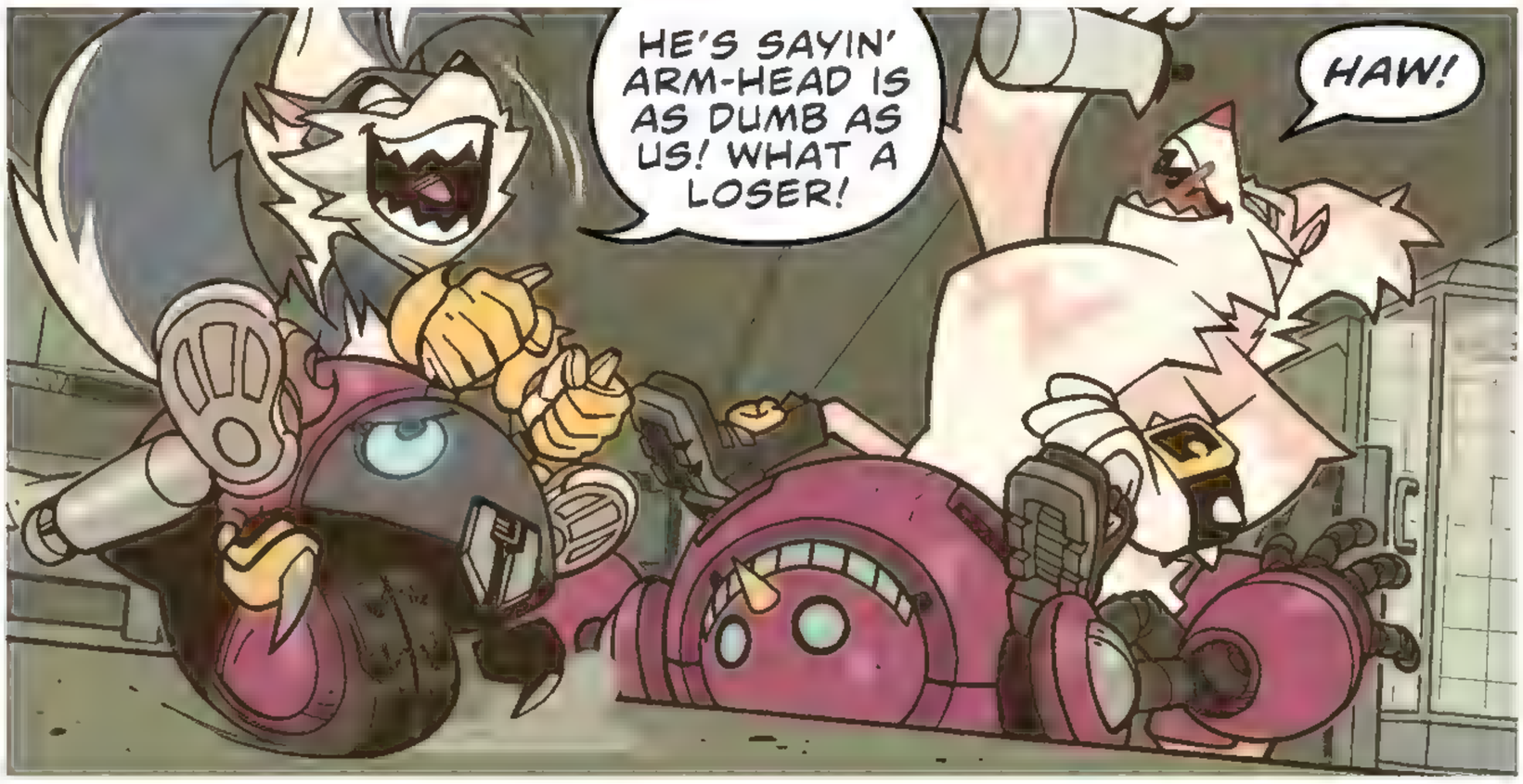
WHAT DO THESE CORES DO?


POWER
FLY
SPEED
THEY'RE CONCENTRATED ENERGY USED BY A VARIETY OF MACHINES IN THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
WHEN PROPERLY HARNESSED, THEY AMPLIFY THE USER'S PHYSICAL ABILITIES.

IN YOUR CASE, A RED POWER CORE CAN DOUBLE YOUR ALREADY INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, SIR.
INDEED? AND HOW DO WE HARNESS THEIR POWER?

JUST BY TOUCHING THEIR E.M. CASINGS, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
THROUGH SPECIAL ADAPTORS I WILL BUILD AND SUPPLY YOU WITH.

POWER IS FLEETING. HOW DOES THIS GET ME CLOSER TO DISAPPEARING?
I EXPECTED TO HAVE TO SPELL THINGS OUT FOR ROUGH AND TUMBLE, BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE STRINGING IT TOGETHER.
DON'T PUSH ME, DOC.


HE'S SAYIN' ARM-HEAD IS AS DUMB AS US! WHAT A LOSER!
HAW!

VERY WELL. PHASE TWO OF THE PLAN HAS US INFILTRATING ONE OF THE VERY FEW EGGNET HUBS.

IT ROUTES ALL DATA FLOW WITHIN DR. EGGMAN'S NETWORK. ONCE WE TAKE COMMAND OF THAT, WE COMMAND *ALL* OF HIS INFORMATION.

WITH THAT KIND OF ACCESS, YOU CAN MAKE IT LIKE I NEVER EXISTED. I CAN MOVE FREELY. FINALLY FOCUS ON GETTING REVENGE.

YOU COULD ALSO REWRITE THE COMMAND LINE FOR HIS ARMIES. TURN HIS ENTIRE EMPIRE ON HIM IN AN INSTANT.

THERE ARE FAIL-SAFES, BUT EVERYTHING WITHIN THAT HUB'S REGION WOULD BE PRONE TO EXACTLY THAT.

YOU WOULD GO THAT FAR AGAINST YOUR FORMER MASTER?

YOU CAN'T USE HALF-MEASURES AGAINST DR. EGGMAN. EITHER YOU DEFEAT HIM, OR IT'S *GAME OVER.*

BUT WE *CANNOT* GET THAT FAR WITHOUT THE EDGE GIVEN TO US BY THE CORES.

FINE, FINE.

THEN WE KNOW OUR TARGET FOR TONIGHT. I WILL LEAD YOU IN GLORIOUS COMBAT.

I WILL COMMAND YOU AS I DID THE DEADLY SIX. EACH OF YOU WILL BE USED TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES.

YOU WILL FOLLOW MY ORDERS WITHOUT QUESTIONS OR HESITATION. IS THAT CLEAR?

THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY WITHOUT TOTAL OBEDIENCE.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, BEAST. I'VE BEEN USING YOU FROM THE START, AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES *MY* VICTORY ASSURED.

NO. DON'T DO THAT. THAT'S THE KIND OF EGOTISM THAT LOSES BATTLES. EVERY ONE OF THESE THUGS IS A LIABILITY.

"MIMIC BETRAYED HIS ENTIRE TEAM TO DR. EGGMAN.* HE'S ONLY IN THIS TO BECOME HARDER TO TRACK.

NOW.

*SONIC: TANGLE & WHISPER #1-4!

"HE'S DANGEROUS. *TOO* DANGEROUS TO LET LOOSE AFTER ALL THIS.

"ROUGH AND TUMBLE ARE DUMB, BLUNT OBJECTS. BUT THEY'RE DRIVEN *AND* VENGEFUL. JUST THE SORT TO CAUSE PROBLEMS AT THE WRONG TIME.

"IT'D BE SAFER IF THEY WERE ELIMINATED, TOO.

"AND ZAVOK--OH-HO-HO, *ZAVOK*. EASILY THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE HERE.

"GIVING HIM ANY AMOUNT OF POWER IS A GAMBLE. LETTING HIM KEEP IT? OUT OF THE QUESTION."

I HAD TOYED WITH THE IDEA OF KEEPING SOME OF THEM AROUND. PERHAPS FOLD THEM INTO MY MASTER PROJECT. BUT...

...NO. I CAN'T AFFORD SENTIMENTALITY. ONCE THIS IS OVER, THEY *ALL* NEED TO BE DISPOSED OF.

THE FORWARD GUARD HAS FALLEN! TUMBLE! GET THEM OVER THE GATE!

GO FOR THE LONG PASS!

I AIN'T GONNA FUMBLE!

KNOCK IT OFF!

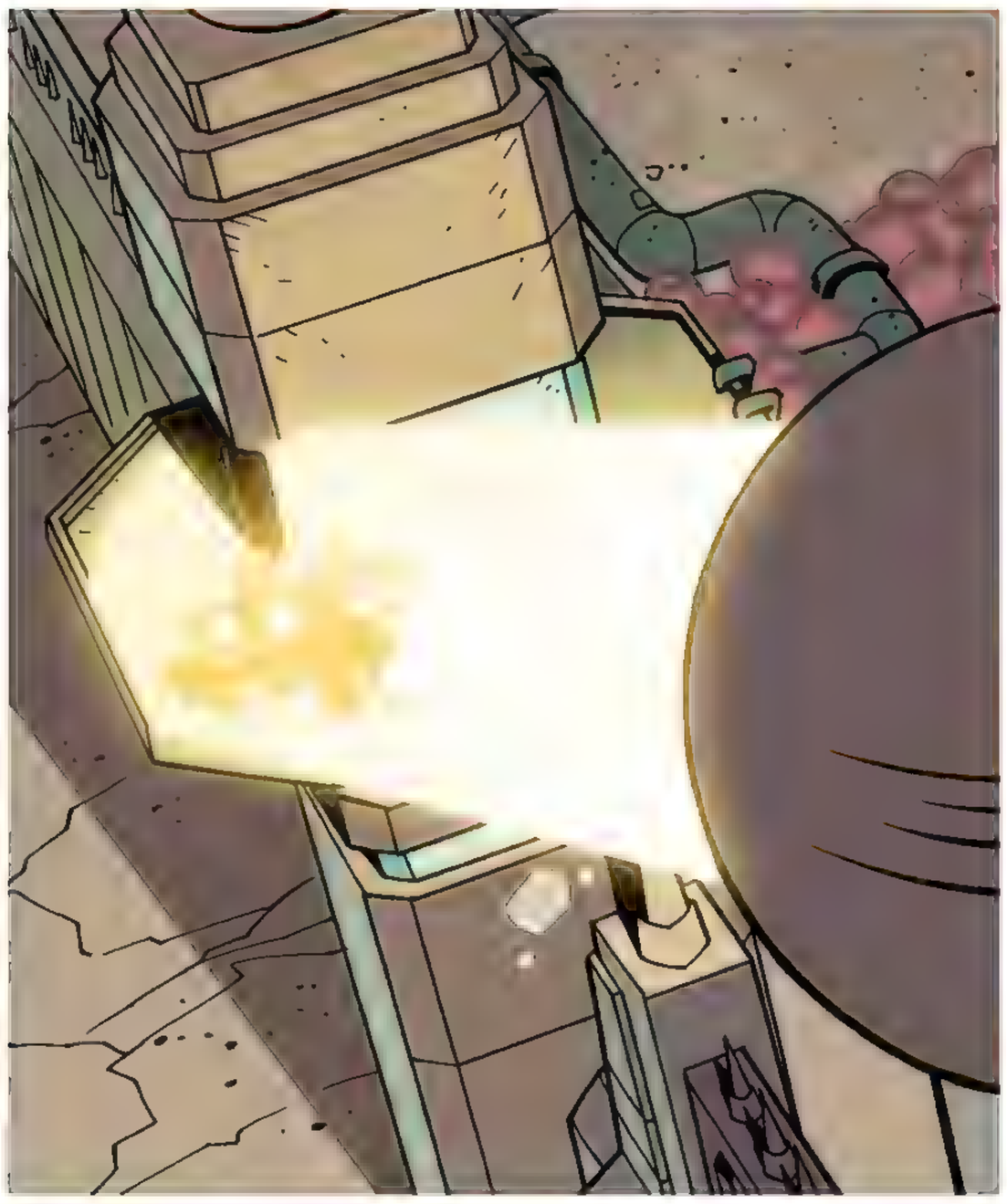
DON'T BASH THE GIMMICK OF--!

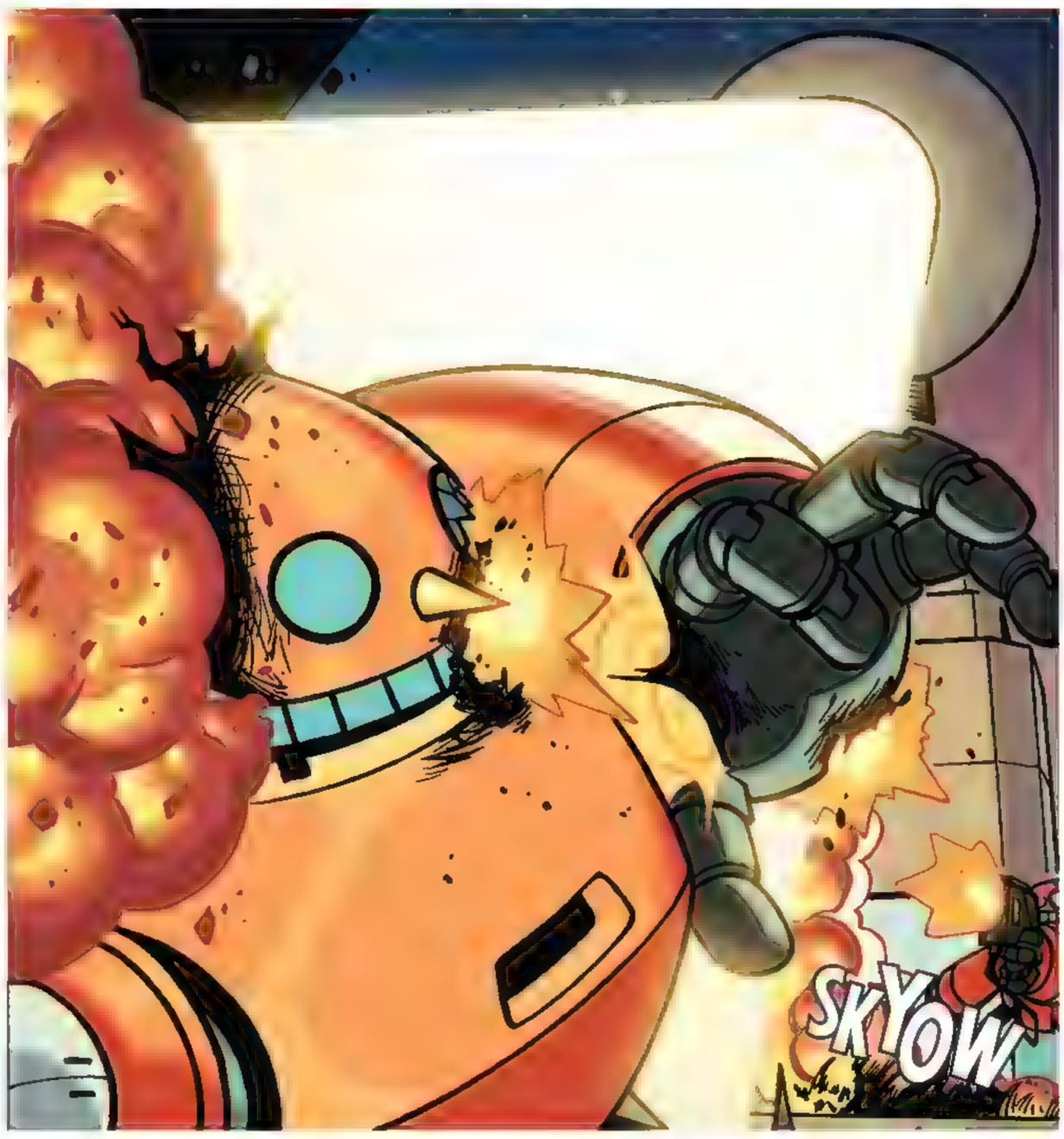
--ROUGH & TUMBLE!

UUGH

SMOKE-SCREEN COMIN' UP! THEY'LL NEVER SEE YA COMIN'!

SKYOW




SKYOW

C'MON! C'MON! C'MON! OPEN UP! ROUGH'S OVER THERE ON HIS OWN!

IT SEEMS THE GATE MAGNETICALLY LOCKED THE MOMENT THE ALARM WAS SOUNDED.

NO MATTER.

BRUMBLE

YEAH! HE BETTER HAVE SAVED SOME BOTS FOR ME!

MASTERFUL EXECUTION, SIR.

THESE WARRIORS ARE NO DEADLY SIX, BUT THEY'RE... ADEPT.

THIS IS WHY I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS OVER-RELIANCE ON MACHINES YOU SHARE WITH EGGMAN.

MACHINES ARE EFFICIENT, TIRELESS, AND UNQUESTIONABLY LOYAL.

WHEN PROGRAMMED PROPERLY.

TRAITS I THOUGHT YOU'D HOLD IN HIGH REGARD.

AT THE COST OF FLEXIBILITY, PASSION, AND INGENUITY. ROBOTS ARE FINE TOOLS, BUT ONLY THAT.

STRONG WARRIORS WILL DO EVERYTHING A ROBOT CAN AND MORE.

AND IN THE TIME YOU FIND A DOZEN, I CAN BUILD YOU AN ARMY OF THOUSANDS.

NONE OF THEM WILL DISRESPECT YOU. IGNORE ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE. THROW YOU AWAY ONLY BECAUSE YOU DARED TO DISAGREE WITH HIS KNEE-JERK REACTION--!

HE WILL NEVER TAKE YOU BACK.

THAT'S... FINE. WE'RE IN THIS FOR REVENGE, REMEMBER?

MORE IMPORTANTLY-- YOU DON'T *NEED HIM.*

WH-WHAAAAAT ARE YOU...?

YOUR PLAN TO CONTROL THE METAL VIRUS *AND* MY PACK WAS SOLID.

YOU MADE ONE MISCALCULATION WHILE ATTEMPTING TO RIGHT ALL EGGMAN HAD DONE WRONG.

IT WAS *HIS* PLAN, I WAS MERELY ADDING MY NOTES AND...

YOU HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL, DOCTOR. DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF BY TRYING TO BECOME EGGMAN.

SURPASS HIM.

DARE I THINK SO BRAZENLY? THE MASTER PLAN WAS ALREADY TO... COULD I GO FURTHER AND...?

CAN WE MOVE THIS ALONG? YOU SAID THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A *QUICK* RAID.

...TWENTY-ONE!

YOU JUST SAID YOU BUSTED TWENTY!

YEAH, WELL, I FORGOT ONE!

SO DID I! TWENTY-*TWO*! I WIN!

I REMEMBERED MORE! TWENTY-NINE! I WIN!

BEFORE WE ENTER, CHANGE INTO SONIC AND MOCK THE NEAREST SECURITY CAMERA.

WHY?

MUST YOU QUESTION *EVERY-THING?*

BECAUSE WE WANT EGGMAN TO THINK THIS IS A BIT OF HEROIC VANDALISM. HE WON'T QUESTION IT.

IF HE KNOWS ***WE'RE*** WORKING AGAINST HIM, HE'LL BEGIN PREPARING COUNTERMEASURES FOR US.

TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF ME AND PUT IT ON SONIC? SURE--I CAN GET BEHIND THAT.

HEY-HEY, EGGY! DID YOU SNEEZE OUT A WIRE BRUSH, OR ARE YOU HAVING A BAD 'STACHE DAY?

OH

TAGGING OUT!

I'LL HANDLE THIS ONE.

SCRAP

IT'S EM-SHIELDED!

IT MUST BE TO PROTECT IT FROM THE CHARGED AIR CAUSED BY THE CORE MANUFAC-TURING!

HOLD UP! THE BOSSES ARE IN TROUBLE!

THAT'S A BIG ONE.

STINK BOMBER WITH A GRAND SLAM?

WORKS FOR ME.

HEY, BOT! OPEN UP WIDE!

YOUR INSIDE'S 'BOUT TO GET JUMBLED!

SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM--

--ROUGH & TUMBLE!

GRAND STINK BOMBER SLAM!

CREEAK

POP

AW, MAN! IT AIN'T GETTIN' UP AFTER *THAT* ONE!

MUSTA BEEN SOMETHING IT ATE! *HAW!*

I AM HONESTLY IMPRESSED.

I AM TOO, AND I HATE IT.

NO TIME FOR AN ENCORE! LOAD UP AS MANY CRATES OF EACH CORE TYPE AS YOU CAN!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DOC? THE GOODS ARE THIS WAY.

I'M GOING TO DO *MY* JOB.

WHICH IS?

ENSURE DR. EGGMAN GETS THE STORY WE *WANT* HIM TO SEE.

DELETE

ON THREE.

ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

WHAM

THERE. "EVIDENCE" OF SONIC'S TRADEMARK SPIN DASH.

BANG-BANG

THE NEXT DAY...

HERE'S THE REPORT, BOSS. IT ISN'T PRETTY.

YOU CALL THIS A REPORT?

IT'S ALL WE HAVE ON FILE, BOSS. BUT IT SEEMS PRETTY CLEAR SONIC IS TO BLAME.

THERE'RE MISSING DATABASES. AND THE SECURITY FOOTAGE IS INCOMPLETE.

WHY?

TO COVER HIS TRACKS?

THEN WHY MOCK ME TO MY OWN SURVEILLANCE CAMERA?

THEN PERHAPS IT WAS TAILS TRYING TO COVER FOR HIM?

PROWER WOULDN'T BE THIS SLOPPY.

NO, SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON. AND WHEN I FIND OUT WHO'S UP TO IT, THEY'RE GOING TO PAY DEARLY.

ZAVOK HAS A POINT. NO ROBOT I'VE BUILT WOULD'VE DONE WHAT ROUGH AND TUMBLE DID.

BUT I WON'T ALLOW MYSELF TO RELY ON ANYONE AGAIN. NOT IN THE WAY THE TEAM THINKS I RELY ON THEM NOW.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT ONCE I CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH MY LONG-TERM PLAN.

FOR NOW, I MUST FOCUS ON THE PRESENT...

...TO ENABLE THE FUTURE.

AND I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO ACHIEVING THAT DREAM NOW THAT I HAVE *THIS!*

A MEANS TO ENSURE I NEVER HAVE TO RELY ON ANYONE AGAIN!

SUCCESS! NOW I CAN CONTEND WITH THE SELF-PROCLAIMED HEROES OF THE WORLD...

...WITH THE POWER OF THE *TRICORE!*

ART BY DIANA SKELLY

ENTER PASSWORD
****

PASSWORD ACCEPTED.
SECONDARY VOICEPRINT REQUIRED_

"A BEACON IN A SEA OF IGNORANCE."

WELCOME, DR. STARLINE_

REDUCE VOLUME. REPLAY LAST DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL.

PROGRESS LOG UPDATE. THINGS ARE MOVING ALONG *SWIMMINGLY.*

THE RABBLE I'VE RALLIED TO MY CAUSE HAVE PERFORMED BEYOND EXPECTATION.

I NOW HAVE A SURPLUS OF POWER CORES TO AID IN FINALIZING MY LONG-TERM PLANS.

IT'S ALSO ENABLED ME TO FABRICATE MY NEWEST CREATION, THE *TRICORE.*

THIS BRILLIANT BAUBLE WILL ALLOW ME TO HOLD MY OWN AGAINST SONIC, TAILS, OR KNUCKLES, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

AND UNLIKE THE SINGLE-USE CORE GEAR I'VE CRAFTED FOR MY "TEAMMATES," THE TRICORE CAN BE USED IN RAPID SUCCESSION HUNDREDS OF TIMES.

PHASE TWO OF THE PLAN HAPPENS TOMORROW. WE'LL BE INVADING AN EGGNET HUB.

THERE I WILL ERASE EGG BASE SIGMA FROM DR. EGGMAN'S DATABASES AND CHANGE ALL SECURITY TO OBEY ME.

ONCE THE BASE IS SAFELY LOST TO THE DOCTOR AND UNDER MY CONTROL, I CAN *FINALLY* MOVE ON TO MY TRUE GOAL.

THE PARAMETERS OF THAT MAY... *SHIFT.*

ZAVOK, FOR ALL HIS FAULTS, SAID SOME THINGS THAT STUCK WITH ME...

...BUT *HE* WILL NOT. NONE OF THE RUBES WILL. ONCE THE NEW HEADQUARTERS IS SECURED, MY NEW ROBOT FORCES WILL ELIMINATE THEM ALL.

NO WITNESSES. NO LOOSE ENDS.

I FEEL A TAD WASTEFUL, BUT THE ALTERNATIVE IS TOO RISKY. THEY'RE FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO LET ROAM FREE.

INDEED.

YOU MOVE SURPRISINGLY QUIETLY FOR A BIG GUY.

WHEN I WANT TO. YOU'RE QUITE STEALTHY YOURSELF...

...MIMIC.

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, *EH?* I DON'T WANT TO WAKE THE REAL DEAL.

I *NEVER* TRUSTED HIM, BUT I TRY NOT TO MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT GOOD INTEL.

I SUSPECT YOU CAME IN LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE, TOO?

NO, I'VE CONFIRMED HIS LIES FOR MYSELF.*

I CAME TO FIND OUT IF THE DEVICES HE PROMISED WERE BOOBY-TRAPPED.

*LAST ISSUE!

CHECKING.

NO, THEY'RE LEGIT.

REALLY? HE'S AS SHORT-SIGHTED AS EGGMAN.

SAYS HERE IT'S TO MAKE SURE THERE'RE NO MISFIRES. HE WANTS US TO BE AT OUR BEST UNTIL HE DISPOSES OF US.

JOKE'S ON YOU, DOC. YOU'RE THE ONE THAT ISN'T WAKING UP TOMORROW.

NO.

OUTSIDE. NOW.

I'M NOT WAITING FOR HIM TO PULL THE TRIGGER! I'M ENDING THIS *TONIGHT!*

WE STILL NEED HIM TO ACCESS THE EGGNET.

HE WON'T MAKE HIS MOVE UNTIL HE FEELS HE'S GOTTEN ALL HE WANTS.

TOMORROW, HE WILL OPEN THE WAY TO WHAT ***WE*** WANT. ***THEN*** I WILL REWARD YOUR PATIENCE BY LETTING YOU FINISH HIM.

FINE. BUT IF IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S MOVING UP HIS TIMETABLE, I'M NOT WAITING ANY LONGER.

FAIR ENOUGH. NOW GET SOME REST.

"IT ALL ENDS IN THE MORNING."

NO-NO-NO! THAT DON'T RHYME WITH "MIMIC"!

WHAT ABOUT "GIMMICK"?

EH... MAYBE? LET'S TRY IT OUT.

OKAY >AHEM< YOU BETTER NOT WHINE!

YOU BETTER NOT GRUMBLE!

IT'S 'BOUT TO GET TOUGH!

WE'VE GOT A NEW GIMMICK!

GET READY FOR HAVOC!

IT'S **STARLINE, TUMBLE, ROUGH, MIMIC, AND ZAVOK!**

Y'ALL ARE A BUNCHA INGRATES! THAT WAS INSPIRED!

IT *IS* A SIGN OF GROWING KINSHIP. CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER, DOCTOR.

WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO VICTORY. DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING PREMATURE?

YOU BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER. YOUR PLAN IS UNFOLDING PERFECTLY.

EGGMAN CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ORCHESTRATE SUCH AN OPERATION.

I AM GLAD TO COMMAND YOU, MY FAITHFUL SERVANT.

WELL... HIGH PRAISE INDEED. THANK YOU, MASTER.

HE'S FULLY FALLEN FOR MY RUSE. *GOOD.* IT WILL MAKE AMBUSHING HIM EASIER.

SOON. THE EGGNET HUB.

AS PROMISED--YOUR PERSONALIZED CORE GEAR.

OH. I WAS EXPECTIN' SOMETHING MORE... TAIL-LIKE.

HOW DO THEY WORK?

THEY READ YOUR BIO-SIGNATURES AND REACT SEAMLESSLY TO YOUR ACTIONS. ACT AS YOU NORMALLY WOULD, AND THE POWER CORE ENERGY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED INSTANTLY.

WEAR IT WITH PRIDE ALL THE SAME. NEXT TIME, I'LL UPGRADE IT INTO A TAIL FOR YOU.

INDULGE IN YOUR POWER FANTASIES, GENTLEMEN. YOU CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING TODAY!

HEY! HOW COME YOU AIN'T GOT ONE?

I HAVE NO SKILLS TO ENHANCE. IT WOULD JUST BE A WASTE OF RESOURCES.

PFFFT! *HAHA!* YOUR WORDS, NOT MINE!

FIRST THING'S FIRST. MIMIC--WE TAKE DOWN THE GUARD TOWERS.

'KAY.

CRACK

BWOOSH

DOOR'S CLEAR! GIMME LAUNCH SPEED, BRO!

HRRGH

WHAM

CRASH

WHA-HA-HA! IS THIS HOW SONIC LIVES?! NO WONDER HE'S SO COCKY!

BWOOSH

POW

POW

POW

FWOOSH

KNOCK-KNOCK!

NONONONO! THERE'S SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT IN THERE!

LEAVE THE PRECISION WORK TO THE PROFESSIONALS, KID.

THIS IS IT. MERE STEPS FROM TOTAL VICTORY.

AW, C'MON! I AIN'T SMASHED ANYTHING YET!

THEN THE INTERIOR GUARD IS ALL YOURS. JUST DON'T BREAK ANYTHING, PLEASE.

?!

SHUNK

ZOT

SMASH

YOU DIDN'T WANNA CONTROL THAT ONE?

NOT NEARLY AS SATISFYING AS OBLITERATING IT.

HAW! YOU'RE ALRIGHT, Z.

HERE! THE CENTRAL COMPUTER!

YOU KNOW THE LOGIN?

NO, BUT I'VE DEVELOPED A COMMAND ALGORITHM TO BYPASS THE SECURITY.

JUST HAD THAT LYING AROUND, EH?

NO, I'VE BEEN DEVELOPING THIS FOR... ANOTHER PROJECT. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.

WELL, WORK FAST. AFTER OUR RAID, I'M SURE EGGMAN'S ON HIGH ALERT.

OH, HE WAS ALERTED THE MINUTE YOU AND ZAVOK TOOK OUT THE GUARD POSTS. HE'S MOBILIZING NOW.

WHAT?

CALM YOURSELF. WE CONTROL HIS INFORMATION FEED NOW, REMEMBER? I'M TELLING HIM IT'S SONIC AND GIVING THE COORDINATES FOR A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FACILITY.

EGGMAN'S HQ.

OH-HO-HO-HO! SOMEBODY IS ABOUT TO LEARN A LESSON IN HUMILITY.

BECAUSE THEY'RE ABOUT TO SUFFER A *HUMILIATING* DEFEAT!

SCRAMBLE THE AERIAL FORCES! WE'RE GOING TO RAIN PUNISHMENT ON WHOEVER IS CAUSING A RUCKUS!

HOLD ON, BOSS! WE JUST GOT AN UPDATE!

I HAVE THE COORDINATES. CARPET-BOMBING WILL HANDLE THE REST!

AS... THOROUGH... AS THAT PLAN IS, THE UPDATE SAYS IT'S *NOT* AN ALERT FROM THE EGGNET HUB.

INTEL NOW SAYS SONIC IS RANSACKING A DEPOT TWENTY MILES TO THE NORTH.

GIVE ME THAT!

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE. THAT'S TOO MUCH OF A MISTAKE TO BE A SIMPLE GLITCH...

PERHAPS TAILS SENT A DUMMY TRANSMISSION AND OUR NETWORK CORRECTED THE MISTAKE?

OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND AND HE'S TRYING TO THROW ME OFF THE TRAIL...

NO MATTER! I'LL CHECK OUT BOTH, RAIN FIRE, AND SIFT THROUGH THE ASHES LATER.

I'VE GOT YOU THIS TIME, SONIC! OH-HO-HO-HO!

HE'S LOGGED HIS FLIGHT PLAN. WE'RE IN THE CLEAR!

AND THE DEFENSES?

SUDDENLY OVERCOME WITH A DESIRE TO PROTECT US.

REGISTRY OF AUXILIARY BASES

EGG BASE PI
EGG BASE RHO
EGG BASE SIGMA
EGG BASE TAU
EGG BASE UPSILON

TIME TO PAY THE PIPER, DOC.

ALL IN GOOD TIME! I NEED TO DO ONE THING FIRST.

FINALLY!

I'M DONE BEING POLITE.

Z-ZAVOK, SIR? A LITTLE HELP?

WHOA-- WHAT?

I THOUGHT WE WERE WORKIN' TOGETHER?

WE WERE. THE DOCTOR WAS *USING* US.

MIMIC FOUND EVIDENCE THIS WAS ALL A PLOY SO HE COULD HIJACK A NEW BASE FOR HIMSELF. ONCE SECURED, HE WAS GOING TO DESTROY US ALL.

I *KNEW* WE COULDN'T TRUST YOU!

YEAH! WE WERE ONLY *PRETENDING* TO!

GO AHEAD. DENY IT. GIVE ME AN EXCUSE.

YOU NEED ME TO DELETE YOU FROM THE DATABASE!

THEN *DO IT.*

I-IT WOULD BE EASIER W-WITH SOME ROOM TO BREATHE...

YOU'LL MANAGE.

[ENTRY DELETED]

NOW ASSIGN COMMAND OF ALL THE BADNIKS IN RANGE OF THIS HUB TO ME.

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST SLICE AS I CARVE OFF MORE OF HIS TERRITORY FOR MYSELF.

FINE! FINE! THEY'RE YOURS! YOU NOW HAVE A WHOLE ARMY TO FIGHT EGGMAN WITH!

I NEED TO EQUIP MY TRICORE AND...

YOU'RE A FREE MAN, MIMIC.

AT LAST.

AND YOU JUST CONQUERED A CHUNK OF THE EGGMAN EMPIRE IN FIVE MINUTES.

INDEED.

YOU HAVE THE CORE GEARS, AND A SURPLUS OF CORES BACK AT THE LAB.

I GUESS SO.

WE CAN DO A LOT OF DAMAGE WITH THOSE.

WHICH MEANS YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS, DOCTOR.

ART BY DIANA SKELLY

DR. EGGMAN'S EGGNET HUB.

DID YOU *REALLY* THINK YOU COULD BETRAY US SO EASILY, DOCTOR?

WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE WANT NOW...

...EXCEPT YOUR HIDE!

TIME FOR YOUR FIRST FIELD TEST! TRICORE, DON'T FAIL ME NOW!

SOK

OWIE-OWIE-OW!

THAT DWEEB HAS MUSCLE?! USE THE GEAR-THINGIE AND SMUSH HIM!

GIMME A MINUTE!

I WILL END HIM!

YOU'D HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST.

HE'S FAST, TOO?!

NO, YOU IDIOT! HE MADE A BETTER VERSION OF THE GEARS HE GAVE US. HE CAN GET ALL THREE KINDS OF BOOSTS WHILE WE ONLY GET ONE.

MIMIC! STAY HERE IN CASE HE DOUBLES BACK.

ROUGH! TUMBLE! YOU'RE WITH ME. WE *HUNT*.

MAKES SENSE. THE DOC NEEDED ACCESS TO THE DATABASE TO GET WHAT HE WANTED.

I COULD FIND SOMEWHERE TO HIDE AND AMBUSH HIM FROM ABOVE.

THEN AGAIN...

...STARLINE HAD A POINT.* THESE GUYS ARE DANGEROUS. AND DELETING ME FROM EGGMAN'S FILES WON'T MEAN SQUAT IF ONE OF THEM TELLS HIM EVERYTHING.

*LAST ISSUE

BUT IF EGGMAN WERE TO GET HERE IN TIME AND WIPE OUT ALL FOUR OF THEM?

NOBODY LEFT TO TATTLE ON LI'L OL' MIMIC.

UPLOAD COMPLETE

SO LONG, FELLAS. IT'S BEEN FUN. BUT NOW I'M FREE TO GO PAY WHISPER A VISIT...

UPDATE FOR YOU, BOSS!

NOT NOW, ORBOT! I'M EN ROUTE TO THE DEPOT SONIC'S ATTACKING.

THAT ALERT JUST CLEARED AS FALSE. BUT IF YOU'D PREFER TO LET ZAVOK RUN LOOSE IN AN EGGNET HUB...

WHAT?!

FORWARDING THE FEED NOW.

HOW IN THE WORLD...?

ALL SQUADRONS FORM UP ON ME! EXTRA THRUSTERS!

TIME TO RID MYSELF OF THAT ZETI ONCE AND FOR ALL!

YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ALL OF US, DOC! COME ON OUT! WE'LL MAKE IT QUICK!

CLUD

ARGH!

HE'S HERE! STARLINE'S OVER HERE!

ONE DOSE OF MY TOXIN WILL IMMOBILIZE YOU. SHALL WE SEE WHAT *TWO* WILL DO?

IT'S OVER, DOCTOR. EVEN BEFORE TODAY, YOU WERE ALWAYS A *FAILURE*.

YOU'RE NOT FIT TO BE EGGMAN'S SUCCESSOR.

YOUR PLANNING WAS SLOPPY. YOUR DISCARDING OF YOUR COMRADES, NEEDLESSLY CRUEL.

ALL OF IT COMPOUNDED BY YOUR UNEARNED SENSE OF *PRIDE*.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, ALL THAT MAKES YOU *EXACTLY* LIKE EGGMAN.

HA HA HA

HE'S RIGHT. ALL THIS TIME--ALL MY *LIFE*--I'VE MODELED MYSELF ON DR. EGGMAN.

I'VE LET HIS WAYS INFLUENCE MY OWN. EVEN IF I TRY TO PLAN AROUND HIS SHORTCOMINGS, MY METHODOLOGY IS INHERENTLY FLAWED.

I LET MY VENDETTA AGAINST ZAVOK BLIND ME JUST AS THE DOCTOR WAS DISTRACTED BY SONIC.

I WAS TOO QUICK TO DISCARD MY ASSETS, JUST AS HE BRASHLY HAD ME CAST ASIDE.

I HAVE BECOME EVERYTHING I CRITIQUED MY IDOL FOR.

BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR SELF-PITY. WE'RE NOW IN THE "DAMAGE CONTROL" PHASE.

IT'S TIME TO CUT MY LOSSES AND ACHIEVE WHAT I CAN.

YOU!

I'M GONNA TURN YOU INSIDE OUT FOR HURTIN' MY BRO!

INELEGANT, BUT EFFECTIVE.

SORRY, BRO.

YOU TRIED.

I HEARD ZAVOK TELL MIMIC TO GUARD THIS ROOM. SO WHERE IS HE?

BLAST IT ALL... HOW DO YOU SPOT A MASTER OF DISGUISE BEFORE HE AMBUSHES YOU...

...OR TURNS YOUR OWN PLAN AGAINST YOU?! EGGMAN WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

DELETE EGG BASE SIGMA FROM THE REGISTRY! CONVERT ITS DEFENSES TO SERVE ME! ERASE ALL CHANGE LOGS!

"AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE EGGMAN ARRIVES!"

WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS DOING?

EASE OFF, Z.

YEAH. STARLINE POISONED US.

THEN EMPOWER YOURSELVES WITH THE CORE GEARS AND WALK IT OFF!

UHH... LOOKS LIKE MINE'S OUTTA JUICE.

GRRR! THEN GET OUT OF MY WAY! IF YOU'RE TOO INEPT TO HANDLE *ONE* ENEMY, GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!

HEY! I DON'T SEE *YOU* CATCHIN' HIM!

YEAH! WE'VE BEEN DOIN' MOST OF THE WORK!

FORGET HIM. FORGET *ALL* OF THEM! WE DON'T NEED A BOSS OR A TEAM!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE WORK BETTER ALONE!

ALONE TOGETHER FOREVER!

YOU SAID IT!

MIMIC! SEARCH FOR STARLINE ON THE SECURITY FEED.

MIMIC? MIMIC?!

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

NO MATTER. I WILL USE THE MACHINE TO FIND LEADS ON MY DEADLY SIX. WE WILL RALLY AND...

HELLO, ZAVOK! COME OUT AND PLA-AY!

WHO DID THIS? STARLINE? MIMIC? DOES IT MATTER AT THIS POINT?

THE CACOPHONIC CONCH WAS LOST WITH THE FACESHIP.* YOU HAVE NO MEANS OF SUBDUING ME.

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT "SUBDUING"? YOU'RE TRESPASSING! AND TRESPASSERS WILL BE VAPORIZED!

*STH #28

YOU WOULD DESTROY SUCH A CRUCIAL INSTALLATION?

I CAN ALWAYS REBUILD. TAKING YOU DOWN WHILE STAYING OUT OF RANGE OF YOUR EM-POWERS IS WORTH IT!

SUCH A WASTE. AND I *HATE* WASTE.

AND YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK YOU'RE BEYOND MY REACH.

STOP SHOOTING MY STUFF WITH MY STUFF! ONLY I GET TO DO THAT!

HEH. IF I'M LUCKY, THEY'LL WIPE EACH OTHER OUT.

MAN... WE TIMED *THAT* RIGHT.

I THINK WE'LL SIT OUT THIS RUMBLE.

IT'S A BRAND NEW START FOR **ROUGH & TUMBLE!**

ENOUGH! BRING IT DOWN!

AND *THAT* IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU *MESS* WITH THE *BEST*.

MOVE.

MOVE.

MOVE.
HEAL.
SURVIVE.

FIND MY PACK. GET REVENGE.

LATER.
DR. EGGMAN'S HQ.

...AND THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ZAVOK. HE DIDN'T EVEN GIVE US A FORWARDING ADDRESS.

SO ZAVOK IS STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. *WONDERFUL.*

AT LEAST WE HAVE AN ANSWER FOR ALL THE DDD RAIDS LATELY.

AN *UNSATISFYING* ANSWER.

ZAVOK ISN'T TECH-SAVVY. HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHY TARGET THE POWER CORE FACTORY AND EGGNET HUB? *HOW* DID HE EVEN *KNOW* WHERE THEY WERE?

ARE THESE RHETORICAL QUESTIONS, OR...?

WHAT I'M GETTING AT IS THIS ISN'T HOW HE OPERATES! YES, HE WAS INVOLVED, BUT *SOMETHING ELSE* WAS GOING ON.

SOMEBODY *ELSE* IS MAKING MOVES AGAINST ME. AND RIGHT NOW I CAN'T BE SURE *WHO* IT IS, OR *WHAT* THEY'RE PLANNING.

EGG BASE SIGMA. STARLINE CENTRAL COMMAND.

WHILE THE EXECUTION WAS FAR FROM OPTIMAL, THE END RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED.

I NOW HAVE A FACILITY THAT CAN MEET THE DEMANDS OF MY GRAND VISION.

AND THAT VISION HAS RECEIVED NEW CLARITY. BEFORE I WANTED THE MEANS TO PROVE MYSELF TO DR. EGGMAN.

I WANTED TO SHOW HIM I WAS WORTHY. I NEEDED HIS APPROVAL.

BUT *WHY?* I KNOW I'M AS COMPETENT AS HE IS. I'M CERTAINLY MORE SELF-AWARE. I'M WILLING TO FIX MY OWN MISTAKES--TO *IMPROVE.*

WHY BOLSTER A MAN WHO IS JUST AS GUILTY OF MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO AS SONIC?

WHY *LIMIT* MYSELF LIKE THAT?

I WON'T BE CONQUERING THE WORLD TO PROVE MYSELF TO DR. EGGMAN. I'LL CONQUER IT TO PROVE IT TO *MYSELF.*

AND I WON'T BE PROVING I'M EGGMAN'S EQUAL.

I'LL PROVE I'M HIS *SUPERIOR REPLACEMENT.*

ART BY DIANA SKELLY

ART BY EVAN STANLEY

WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU GOT THIS?

IT'S A SOUVENIR FROM MY TOUR OF THE FACESHIP, DIRECT FROM DR. EGGMAN'S PERSONAL FILES.

OUTSIDE TAILS' WORKSHOP...

REMARKABLE.

I WAS HOPING THEY'D MAKE SOME SENSE TO YOU, MR. BOY GENIUS.

PHEW! THAT'S THE LAST OF IT... GUESS I CAN SKIP MY BOXERCISE WORKOUT TODAY. SO, D'YA THINK YOU CAN FIX HIM?

THANKS, AMY. AND I'M NOT SURE... EGGMAN WROTE THIS IN CODE.

WITHOUT THE CIPHER, IT'S GIBBERISH!

BESIDES, EVEN IF I COULD READ IT, OMEGA'S WAY BEYOND A SIMPLE TUNE-UP*. THIS IS GONNA BE A FULL REBUILD...

*SEE STH #32--EDS.

IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I AM A MACHINE. A WEAK ORGANIC LIFE FORM WOULD LIKELY EXPERIENCE ELEVATED STRESS LEVELS IN THIS SITUATION.

IF I CAN GET INTO EGGMAN'S NETWORK, I BET I COULD FIND THE CIPHER FOR THE BLUEPRINTS. I'D NEED A PLACE WITH EGGNET ACCESS, LIKE AN ABANDONED BASE...

ALL RIGHT! I'M READY TO GET BACK INTO THE ACTION.

WELL, THAT WAS MY GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY... GOOD LUCK!

AW, YOU'RE GONNA MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN!

IF I'M TOO HELPFUL ALL AT ONCE, I'LL BREAK OUT IN HIVES.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE OMEGA FIXED UP, LET ME KNOW HOW IT GOES!

YO, TAILS! I KNOW A BASE UP BY WINDMILL VILLAGE; THE DOC HASN'T BEEN THERE IN AGES, AND IT MIGHT HAVE WHAT YOU NEED! Y'WANNA COME, AMY?

EEP! Y-YOU AND I, TOGETHER? ON A MISSION?

IT'LL BE DARK, COLD, DEEP UNDERGROUND, INFESTED WITH RUSTY KILLER BADNIKS... THE WORKS!

OH... SOUNDS GREAT...

WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU, BLUE.

THAT TAKES CARE OF THE BLUEPRINTS, BUT WE STILL NEED MATERIALS.

I DON'T HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO FABRICATE PARTS LIKE EGGMAN'S, BUT IF I HAD AN E-100 SERIES PART-SET, I COULD MAYBE USE THAT? THEY'RE REALLY RARE, THOUGH...

IS THAT ALL?

I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT!

I'VE HAD MY EYE ON THIS MARK FOR A *WHILE*.

WHITE PARK? THE ROLLERCOASTER PLACE?

THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

WHITE PARK IS THE PLACE TO FIND RARE GOODS, INCLUDING SALVAGED EGGMAN TECH... IF YOU KNOW WHO TO TALK TO.

LUCKILY, I DO! IT'S THE REIGNING CHAMPION OF THE WHITE PARK CHAO RACING CIRCUIT: "CLUTCH."

HIS REAL CLAIM TO FAME IS AN UNPARALLELED COLLECTION OF TECHNOLOGY AND RICHES. AND HE'S BEEN KNOWN TO MAKE THE ODD TRADE UNDER THE TABLE.

WHITE PARK ZONE

MY REPUTATION MIGHT MAKE IT A BIT DIFFICULT TO EARN HIS TRUST, SO WE'LL NEED A COVER STORY. AND THERE'S ONE WAITING FOR US: THE CHAO RACES!

YOU'VE PUT AN AWFUL LOT OF THOUGHT INTO THIS.

WITH SO MUCH TREASURE JUST SITTING THERE FOR THE TAKING, WHY WOULDN'T I?

NOW, WE'RE GOING TO NEED ONE MORE PERSON TO MAKE THIS WORK...

FLORAL FOREST: VANILLA'S HOUSE.

HELLO! MAY I ASK WHO IS CALLING?

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

YOU'RE STILL WELCOME TO JOIN THE BOYS IN THAT DARK, DANK ABANDONED LAIR.

...FAIR ENOUGH.

MS. AMY! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY?

CREAM? IN WHITE PARK?

CHAO RACING? OH, MY, I DON'T KNOW...

IF GEMERL WERE DAMAGED, WE'D BE THERE TO GET HIM FIXED UP!

DOESN'T OMEGA DESERVE THE SAME KINDNESS? IT'LL MAKE A HUGE POSITIVE IMPACT!

YES! IMPACT CRATERS FROM MY--*MMPH!*

DOESN'T HE DESERVE A CHANCE?

THAT'S TRUE... AND SPEAKING OF GEMERL, I THINK HE COULD, IN FACT, USE A LITTLE TUNE-UP.

HE'S HASN'T COMPLAINED, BUT HE WAS DAMAGED IN HIS LAST BATTLE.

YEAH! I'M SURE TAILS CAN FIGURE IT OUT.

WE'RE GOING TO FIX GEMERL?!

MY PRIMARY SYSTEMS ARE FULLY OPERATIONAL AFTER MY SYSTEM REBOOT. ANY DAMAGE I'VE SUSTAINED IS MERELY SUPERFICIAL--

OH, MAMA! WON'T YOU PLEASE LET US HELP?

I SUPPOSE... IF AMY AND GEMERL ARE THERE WITH YOU....

GO GET YOUR WINTER CLOTHES WHILE I PACK UP SOME COOKIES FOR YOUR TRIP--IT'S COLD IN WHITE PARK, AND AMY WILL BE HERE SOON!

DID YOU HEAR THAT, GEMERL? WE'RE GOING ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE!

CHAO-CHAO!

PLEASE BE CAREFUL, DEAR...

THE FOREST, NEAR WINDMILL VILLAGE.

"...YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THESE ADVENTURES CAN BE!"

HOW'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS PLACE?

SPOTTED IT ON ONE'A MY RUNS.

I KEEP TABS ON STUFF LIKE THIS WHEN I SEE IT.

I WONDER WHY EGGMAN ABANDONED THIS ONE...

MAYBE IT WAS TAKEN OVER BY *GHOST BADNIKS!*

AH, STOP IT!

THEY ONLY COME OUT UNDER THE FULL MOON... WATCH OUT, THEY *VANT TO SUCK YOUR BLOOOOD!*

I THINK YOU'VE GOT SOME WIRES CROSSED THERE.

WHAT? NO! NEVER!

AHA, THERE'S ONE!

UMPH-- ONE WHAT?

A COMPUTER TERMINAL!

ONCE WE GET SOME BACKUP POWER GOING, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE EGGNET FROM HERE.

SLAM

YEESH. I TAKE IT BACK ABOUT THE GHOST BADNIKS, THIS IS PLENTY CREEPY AS-IS.

AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE COMPANY...

MEANWHILE...

THERE IT IS--WHITE PARK!

WOW, IT'S SO PRETTY!

BREATHTAKING VIEWS, LUXURY ACCOMODATIONS, AND A ***SECRET TREASURE HOARD*** WAITING TO BE FOUND... WHAT MORE COULD A GIRL ASK FOR?

AMY-01

I KNOW THIS ISN'T TECHNICALLY A VACATION, BUT IT'S A NICE CHANGE AFTER ALL THAT TIME PUSHING PAPERS AT RESTORATION HQ...

!!!

SCREEE

FFFF

WHUH-- SHADOW?!

HOW 'BOUT THAT? HEY THERE, HANDSOME.

TCH-- TYPICAL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NOTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU.

HOLD ON--WE'RE TRYING TO GET OMEGA FIXED! WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!

...NOT INTERESTED.

UGH! WHY'S HE GOTTA BE SUCH A *GRUMP?*

DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY... THAT WAS *POLITE,* FOR HIM.

"BESIDES, SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'LL BE SEEING HIM AGAIN."

A SHORT DRIVE LATER...

GET READY FOR A CRASH-COURSE IN *SUBTERFUGE*... REMEMBER, IF ANYBODY ASKS, I'M "FACET."

START

Sign In Here

SIT TIGHT, OMEGA.

I HAVE NO LEGS. THIS DOES NOT COMPUTE.

I--JUST KEEP *QUIET.*

FOLLOW MY LEAD AND ACT NATURAL. WITH ANY LUCK, NOBODY WILL KNOW WE WERE EVER HERE.

ATTENTION, CHATEAU GUESTS!

OMOCHAO SPEAKING, I'LL BE YOUR EMCEE FOR TODAY'S EVENT!

THE GRAND PRIX QUALIFICATION RACE WILL BE BEGINNING SOON.

IF YOU WISH TO COMPETE, PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHAO IMMEDIATELY!

BETTER GET YOU TWO SIGNED UP!

I'LL FIND US A GOOD SPOT TO WATCH FROM!

EXCUSE ME, THIS DEAR LITTLE GIRL IS *SO* EXCITED TO ENTER THE RACE, SHE SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT! DO YOU MIND IF WE...?

AREN'T YOU THE CUTEST-- SURE!

THIS YOUNG LADY WOULD LIKE TO ENTER HER CHAO IN THE RACE.

I'M SORRY, WE DON'T ALLOW CHILDREN TO RACE.

A-HA-HA... I MEAN, *I'M* THE YOUNG LADY!

OF COURSE! SIGN HERE, PLEASE!

CHATEAU GUESTS, THE QUALIFICATION RACE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

THE FIRST 50 CHAO TO CROSS THE FINISH LINE WILL BE ENTERED IN OUR GRAND PRIX, STARTING TOMORROW.

GOOD LUCK, AND HAPPY RACING!

GOOD LUCK, CHEESE!

MS. ROUGE, WHY DID YOU LIE? IT'S NOT NICE TO NOT TELL THE TRUTH!

THAT'S "MS. FACET," AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

A LITTLE WHITE LIE WON'T HURT THEM.

AH! LOOK, THERE'S CHEESE!

PREDISPOSITION TOWARDS DECEPTION: *NOTED*.

YOU'RE NO FUN.

HEADS UP, THERE'S OUR MAN...

CLUTCH?

IF THE DESCRIPTIONS I'VE HEARD ARE TO BE BELIEVED, THOUGH I WASN'T PREPARED FOR QUITE SO MUCH *HAIR*.

FWEEEET

CHAOOH!

OH, I DO HOPE THEY'RE OKAY...

PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP, CHEESE! YOU CAN CATCH UP IN THE FLYING SECTION!

THWAK

CHAAH!

SPLASH

CHA--OOH!

FINISH

SPISH-PISH

FOLLOW MY VOICE! I BELIEVE IN YOU!

KNOCK 'EM DEAD, CHEESE!

FINISH

WHOOSH

SKRRRR

FINISH

FIRST AID

THAT WAS *AMAZING!* YOU WERE SO BRAVE, CHEESE!

THAT LAST-MINUTE DASH GOT HIM INTO THE QUALIFYING BRACKET, TOO.

YAAAY!

WE'RE OFFICIALLY IN THE GRAND PRIX.

...

I GOTTA ADMIT, AS PLANS GO, THIS IS A PRETTY FUN ONE!

MY PLANS ARE *ALWAYS* FUN.

GOOD EVENING, LADIES.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I--

PLEASE STAY BACK, SIR.

MR. CLUTCH! YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU. EXCUSE MY FRIENDS, THEY'RE NOT USED TO SUCH A *REFINED* ENVIRONMENT.

HEY!

PLEASE, CALL ME *FACET*.

CHARMED, MS. FACET. I MAKE A POINT OF MEETING WITH ALL THE NEW TRAINERS IN THE CHATEAU, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE SUCH AN *EXCEPTIONAL* CHAO AT THEIR SIDE.

MY APARTMENT IS THE PENTHOUSE SUITE; STOP BY LATER TONIGHT AND WE'LL TALK SHOP.

IT'S A DATE.

MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN... I *PROMISE* IT'LL BE WORTH YOUR WHILE.

AND THAT'S HOW YOU GET THINGS DONE!

SEEMS A LITTLE TOO EASY TO ME.

OH, HE'S GOT SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE FOR SURE.

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR PRETTY HEAD ABOUT IT; I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.

GO AHEAD AND BOOK A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT, AND DON'T WAIT UP.

FINE... BUT ONLY 'CAUSE IT'S PAST CREAM'S BEDTIME.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

THE PENTHOUSE... THIS MUST BE IT!

PLEASE, COME IN.

WOOF... HIS HOUSEKEEPING IS ABOUT AS RIGOROUS AS HIS PERSONAL HYGIENE.

THERE IS A CERTAIN CHARM TO IT, THOUGH.

GOOD, YOU FOUND ME... SOME OF MY GUESTS GET A BIT LOST IN THE *COLLECTION*.

I TRUST YOU SAW SOMETHING TO YOUR LIKING, *ROUGE THE BAT*?

MY NAME IS FACET--

DON'T BOTHER. I'M SITTING ON A NOT-INSIGNIFICANT ***FORTUNE***, AND YOU'RE A WORLD-FAMOUS ***THIEF***. IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN EVENTUALLY.

...

I PREFER THE TERM "TREASURE HUNTER."

HAH! TREASURE HUNTER IT IS, THEN. ROUGE, WE BOTH HAVE SOMETHING THE OTHER WANTS. WHY NOT MAKE A DEAL?

I'M A CHAO TRAINER AND A GOOD ONE. I ONLY WANT THE BEST. AND THAT CHAO YOU WERE RACING TODAY... I COULD MAKE THEM ***LEGENDARY***.

SO HERE'S THE PITCH: IF THAT DIAMOND-IN-THE-ROUGH OF YOURS CAN COME OUT ON TOP IN TOMORROW'S RACES, I'LL GIVE YOU ***ANYTHING YOU WANT*** FROM MY COLLECTION... IN TRADE FOR THE CHAO.

DON'T WORRY, I TREAT MY CHAO QUITE WELL... AS LONG AS THEY'RE WINNING FOR ME.

I'LL NEED TO THINK IT OVER.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE!

BE SURE TO PERUSE MY ASSORTMENT OF ***GEMSTONES*** ON THE WAY OUT; THERE'S SOME TRULY REMARKABLE SPECIMENS.

DISCREPANCY DETECTED: THE CHAO "CHEESE" IS NOT YOUR PROPERTY. HOW DO YOU INTEND TO OBTAIN HIM? WITH VIOLENCE?

PLEASE. I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE HIM CHEESE.

OF COURSE, CLUTCH DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW THAT.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, OMEGA. I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.

MOMENTS LATER...

AND DONE. THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

OOH, HOW *OMINOUS*. YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING US SINCE WE ARRIVED, HAVEN'T YOU?

ONE OF CLUTCH'S CRONIES, HERE FOR A LITTLE *EXTRA* INTIMIDATION?

YOU--!

OUTSIDE...

ANOTHER DEAD END... NO SIGN OF THE DOCTOR'S WORK HERE, JUST PETTY GAMES AND FRIVOLOUS AMUSEMENTS. I GUESS THE RUMOR ABOUT A BOT-TRADER HERE WAS *FALSE*.

WHAT ARE AMY AND ROUGE DOING HERE? WITH CREAM, TOO... I COULD--*NO*. NOT MY PROBLEM.

THMP TMP TMP

?

WHO IS THAT?

DON'T BOTHER RUNNING, YOU CAN'T ESCAPE *ME*.

MAYBE THERE WAS SOMETHING TO THE RUMORS AFTER ALL...

...YOU! *STOP!*

GAH!

DASH

RRGH...

KRUNCH

LIKE I SAID, DON'T BOTHER. ARE YOU WORKING FOR DR. EGGMAN, OR--?

WHAT IN THE...

THA-WHAK

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

MORNING AT THE WHITE PARK CHATEAU.

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, CREAM? YOU'VE HARDLY TOUCHED YOUR WAFFLE.

I'M WORRIED...

...MS. ROUGE DIDN'T COME BACK LAST NIGHT! WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HER?

ROUGE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF. SHE PROBABLY JUST HAD TOO MUCH FUN STEALING EVERYBODY'S FANCY JEWELS OR SOMETHING.

THE ONLY TREASURE IN THIS CHATEAU IS YOUR FRIENDLY FACES!

I CHECKED. MOST OF THE GUESTS IN THIS PLACE ARE WEARING GOLD PLATING AND RHINESTONES.

GOOD MORNING, MS. ROUGE!

DO YOU THINK THAT'S A GOOD EXAMPLE TO BE SETTING FOR CREAM?

DEFINITELY NOT! CREAM, REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE EVER GOING TO LOOT A HOTEL, MAKE SURE THE GUESTS ARE LOADED FIRST.

ATTENTION, RACE ATTENDEES! TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS WILL BE STARTING MOMENTARILY. TRAINERS, PLEASE BRING YOUR CHAO TO THE TRACK!

THAT'S OUR CUE!

C'MON, CHEESE! WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE!

CHAO CHAO!

HOLD ON! I'M CHEESE'S "TRAINER," REMEMBER?

USELESS PAGEANTRY. IF I'M GOING TO FIND THE ONE WHO BEAT ME, IT WON'T BE IN THAT RABBLE.

EARLIER.

THAT STRANGER COULD BE THE ROOT OF THE EGG-TECH RUMORS I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING. I CAN'T LET THEM SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS AGAIN.

LUCKY FOR ME...

CLUTCH THADDEUS OPOSSUM:
ANTIQUES AND ACQUISITIONS
PENTHOUSE SUITE, WHITE PARK
GRAND PLATEAU

...I'VE GOT A LEAD.

I HOPE THEY MAKE USE OF THE TIME THEY HAVE LEFT...

...BECAUSE I WON'T LEAVE THEM *MUCH*.

NOW.

SO, THE RUMORS WERE TRUE. THIS COLLECTOR BETTER HAVE ANSWERS ABOUT EGGMAN'S WHEREABOUTS, FOR THEIR SAKE.

SUSPICIOUS.

WHAT...?

UTTER SCUM...

SHADOW? YOU ARE NOT A PART OF ROUGE'S PLAN. HAS THE CODEWORD CHANGED?

?!

THIS IS IT, RACE FANS! THE FINAL MATCH OF THE DAY!

THE WINNERS OF THIS RACE WILL BE ENTERED INTO THE SEMIFINALS, SO I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL TRY THEIR HARDEST!

ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET...

...GO!

YOU CAN DO THIS, CHEESE! PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

CHAA!

SCUFF

FINISH

TP-TP-TP-TP-TP

CHAOO!

SPLASH

CHAAH!

FINISH

SCRATCH

CHEESE! THAT WAS WONDERFUL!

CHAO!

WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TAKE CHEESE OVER TO THE FIRST-AID TENT TO GET CHECKED OUT? THAT LAST LANDING WAS A LITTLE ROUGH.

OH! I SUPPOSE THAT'S ALL RIGHT, BUT--

GREAT! YOU THREE RUN ALONG, AND--

NEGATIVE. I WILL NOT ALLOW A DELIBERATE BREACH OF MY DIRECTIVES.

WHAT HE MEANS TO SAY IS THAT WE'RE NOT LETTING CHEESE OUT OF OUR SIGHT. WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?

UGH, **FINE**. I NEED CHEESE WITH ME SO I CAN GET CLUTCH ALONE. HE THINKS IT'LL BE A TRADE, A CHAO FOR THE PARTS WE NEED, **BUT**...

...I'VE GOT A PLAN TO TURN THE TABLES ON HIM. THIS GAMBIT'S A BIT MUCH FOR YOU DO-GOODERS THOUGH, SO WHY DON'T YOU LET ME--

--DO-GOODER, SHMOOGOODER. WE CAN HANDLE IT!

BESIDES, YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH YOUR BACK.

MY, HOW DARING... I'M IMPRESSED!

A TEAM'S A TEAM. MIGHT EVEN BE **FUN!**

SOON...

ROUGE! YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU'D BE BRINGING GUESTS, I WOULD HAVE TIDIED UP.

I TRY TO BE HOSPITABLE TO ALL MY VISITORS, EVEN WHEN THEY'RE A BAND OF **SNIVELING GIRL SCOUTS** DRAGGING AROUND A RUST-BUCKET WHICH, FRANKLY, I'D BE **ASHAMED** TO SEE IN MY COLLECTION.

SIMMER DOWN! WE NEED *TACT*, NOT MUSCLE.

YOUR ROBOT'S ENTHUSIASM IS ADMIRABLE...

...BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WHILE I LIKE TO DO BUSINESS IN A **RELAXED** SETTING, I AM BY **NO** MEANS DEFENSELESS. INTERESTED IN A DEMONSTRATION?

WE'RE HERE FOR THE TRADE, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT. SHOW ME THE CHAO.

DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT THIS UNDER CONTROL.

MY MY... IS THIS LITTLE LADY THE CHAO'S *TRAINER?* AND YOU'RE WILLING TO DESTROY THEIR DELICATE BOND?

I KNEW I LIKED YOU, ROUGE.

I ALWAYS GET WHAT'S MINE.

WHAT'S THAT?

I-I SAID, I ALWAYS *GET WHAT'S MINE.*

CUTE CODEWORD... DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WOR--

THAAA-WHACK

ANALYSIS COMPLETE: SHADOW'S PLAN *IS* BETTER THAN ROUGE'S!

TAKE THAT, YOU CREEP! ENJOY YOUR NAP!

NOT THE HELP I EXPECTED, BUT I'M NOT COMPLAINING! THANKS, SHADOW.

I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU.

CHECK UNDER THAT CLOTH-- YOU MAY WANT TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT'S BENEATH.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO FIND A REAL CHALLENGE.

OH MY GOODNESS...!

CHAO!

YOU POOR THINGS! SO THIS IS WHY YOU RACED SO HARD... THAT NASTY MR. CLUTCH WOULD PUT YOU BACK IN HERE IF YOU LOST!

CHAO CH-CHAO...

WE HAVE TO GET THEM OUT.

AGREED, BUT I DO NOT THINK IT WILL BE EASY.

HEY, YOU'RE LEAVING, TOO?

OH? UH--

--I'M GONNA CALL TAILS. WE COULD USE HIS HELP PICKING OUT THE RIGHT PARTS FOR OMEGA.

OK! AND ROUGE? GOOD PLAN.

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!

BUT IT WORKED, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS! I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THE SLEEPY CREEP.

RIGHT.

"WE'LL HAVE THIS WRAPPED UP IN NO TIME!"

AT THE ABANDONED EGGBASE...

SO IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS. YOU AND ME, MANO-A-MANO, NO MERCY.

TWO WILL ENTER, *ONE* WILL LEAVE.

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER, OVEN MITTS!

PAFF

...EUGH.

SOOO... TAILS! NEARLY GOT THAT WHOLE SUPER HACKER THING WRAPPED UP, YEAH?

SORRY, THE SYSTEM'S ADAPTIVE FIREWALL IS REALLY TRICKY. IT'S TAKING MOST OF MY EFFORT JUST TO STAY UNDETECTED!

SO YOU'D SAY... THE EGGNET IS HARD TO CRACK?

I SAID, THE EGGNET IS HARD TO CRACK?

Y'KNOW, 'CAUSE EGGS, AND CRACKING... NEVERMIND.

IT'S OFFICIAL, THIS IS THE *LEAST* FUN TRIP TO A SECRET EGGMAN BASE I'VE EVER BEEN ON.

TOK

PONG

TING

WHAK

AAH!

OW-OW-OW-OW...

...OH, SAWDUST.

BADNIK!
WAI--
HANG TIGHT, BUDDY, I GOT THIS!
HIDING OUT TO SNEAK-ATTACK US? NICE TRY! YOU'RE A NEW BADNIK--WHAT SORTA GOOFY NAME DID EGGMAN COME UP WITH THIS TIME?
PUPPETRON?
WARYONETTE?
NO-- VENTKILLOQUIST!
YOU'RE... YOU'RE SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
GOT IT IN ONE. GEESH, EGGY DIDN'T SKIMP ON THE AXEL GREASE FOR YOU, HUH?
I DON'T WANT TO-- YEEK!
SONIC, I DON'T THINK THAT'S A BADNIK!

HA!

?!

AAH--

MY TAIL! DON'T PULL IT!

KLINK DING

WHAM

HELLO...! NOW IT'S GETTING INTERESTING!

OH, NO! I AM SO SORRY, IT'S A REFLEX, I CAN'T CONTROL IT, HONEST! I'M NOT A BADNIK, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO FIGHT!

P-PLEASE DON'T USE YOUR BUZZSAW HAIR ON ME.

SONIC.

YEAH, YEAH, I HEARD 'ER. I'M DONE.

I GET A LITTLE SQUIRRELY WHEN I'M COOPED UP INSIDE.

D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT?

GOOD. OKAY THEN...

SORRY... WHEN WE RUN INTO ROBOTS, THEY'RE USUALLY PART OF EGGMAN'S ARMY. I'M TAILS, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

UH, BELLE...

WHOA! YOUR CONSTRUCTION IS *REMARKABLE!* I'VE NEVER SEEN A WOODEN ROBOT BEFORE!

IT'S HAND-CARVED OAK HARDWOOD...

WHO DID THE WORK?

THAT'S... PRIVATE.

LET ME GUESS: MUSTACHE, BALD, BIG ON THEME PARKS?

MY DA--CREATOR IS *MISSING*, AND I'M LOOKING FOR THEM. THEY'RE *NOT* DR. EGGMAN.

SEE? YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT *EVERY* ROBOT, SONIC.

PFF-- *SURE.*

AUTHORIZED ACCESS
EMPT DETECTED--
Y ACTIVATED. NICE TRY!

BREEP BREEP BREEP

SHOOT! I FORGOT ABOUT THE FIREWALL!

EVERYTHING'S LOCKED...

IT'S OK, WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING ELSE OUT--

NO, I'LL GET AROUND IT! I WON'T GIVE UP!

UH, GUYS?

I DON'T THINK WE'RE ALONE IN HERE...

SKRI-CHI-CHI

CRASH

YEEK!

GEARS AND STARTERS!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

A-ARE THOSE BADNIKS?

UNFORTUNATELY. KEEP BACK, THESE ONES HAVE A BAD HABIT OF *EXPLODING* WHEN THEY GRAB HOLD OF YOU.

THEY'RE SLOW, AND NOT VERY SMART; WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OUTMANEUVER THEM!

I'D NEED A SOLID SPINDASH, IF YOU CAN COVER ME WHILE I'M CHARGING UP...

COULD YOU BUST DOWN THE DOOR?

SURE, BUT I CAN'T BUILD UP MOMENTUM WITHOUT SOME MORE SPACE!

WATCH OUT!

AAH!

BELLE!

OH, NO, YOU DON'T!

WHAM

ARE YOU OKAY?

I THINK SO...

I HOPE YOU'RE READY TO PUT THOSE WEIRD SKILLS OF YOURS TO USE...

...BECAUSE WE'RE GONNA NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

CHAOS SODA

HOW DO THEY JUST KEEP COMING?!

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY COULD BE PACKED INSIDE THE WALLS.

THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY THE TOUGHEST 'BOTS, BUT...

BLAM

THIS ISN'T GONNA HOLD FOREVER!

BLAM BLAM

I'VE GOT AN IDEA--GET READY TO FOLLOW ME!

RIGHT BEHIND YOU, BUD.

UP HERE, BOLT-BRAINS!

LET'S PUT THOSE EXPLOSIONS TO GOOD USE!

BLAM

NICE!

YEEK!

HOLD ON TIGHT, WE'RE GETTIN' OUT OF HERE.

KEEP YOUR HANDS AND ARMS INSIDE THE VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES!

CRASH

EVERYBODY GOOD? ALL RIGHT!

FOLLOW ME!

LAST ONE OUT IS A ROTTEN EGGMAN!

SONIC!

WHUH-OH--

I AM NOT GETTING SMASHED TO SPLINTERS IN THIS DUMP... GET READY, TAILS!

HUH? WHAT--

ZRRRRR

KLIK-DING

WHOOOAH!

HEY, NOT BAD!

I THINK I'M ALL SECRET BASE'D OUT FOR TODAY, HOW 'BOUT YOU GUYS?

WOO-HOO-HOO!

YEAH HA HA!

THAT WAS FUN!

THAT WAS HORRIFYING...

IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY NORMAL, FOR US.

I GUESS I SHOULD LET THE OTHERS KNOW WHAT HAPPENED--

--OH! THERE'S A MESSAGE FROM ROUGE!

TAILS! WE'VE GOT =KSSH= TROUBLE ON OUR END. I NEED YOU TO MEET ME IN WHITE PARK ASAP*.

1 MESSAGE FROM:

*AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--EDS.

I'LL FILL YOU IN WHEN YOU ARRIVE--=KSSH= SENDING COORDINATES NOW. DROP SONIC OFF AT THE CHATEAU TO HELP AMY AND THE OTHERS. ROUGE OUT.

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

I DUNNO, BUT IT SOUNDS SERIOUS. WE SHOULD GET GOING.

?

YEAH. OKAY, PUPPETY GIRL, WE'RE GONNA BOUNCE.

NICE KNOWIN' YA.

WAIT! COULD I GET A RIDE, MAYBE?

...

SONIC!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER OUT HERE. SHE JUST SAVED ME--TWICE!

I PROMISE I'M NOT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. LET ME PROVE IT TO YOU!

ALSO THE PLACE I WAS HIDING OUT IN IS FULL OF BADNIKS NOW, AND I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO, SO...?

MMGH, FINE. WE'LL TAKE YOU TO WHITE PARK.

OH, THANK GOODNESS.

ALRIGHT, LET'S FLY!

PICK A WING AND HOLD ON TIGHT.

THANK YOU SO-- WAIT. A WING?

EEEAAAHH!

I-I DON'T THINK I LIKE FLYING...

YOU DIDN'T FALL OFF, I'D CALL THAT A WIN! COUPLE MORE FLIGHTS AND YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF IT.

SONIC!

I KNEW YOU'D COME!

UNF-- YOU DID?

NO, BUT I'M NOT COMPLAINING.

I CAME DOWN HERE TO SEE IF I COULD FIND *ROUGE*; SHE CALLED TAILS, RIGHT? WE COULD REALLY USE HIS HELP FIGURING OUT WHICH PARTS TO TAKE.

HEY, WHERE IS TAILS?

WE HEARD FROM ROUGE, SHE NEEDED TAILS FOR AN EMERGENCY. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

NO... THERE'S STILL SOME SNAGS, BUT I WOULDN'T CALL IT AN EMERGENCY. SUPER WEIRD.

LET'S HEAD UP TO THE PENTHOUSE, SONIC. MAYBE YOU CAN BUST OPEN THE--

WAIT, *UH*--

HI, YOU'RE...?
BELLE. SHE'S HELPING OUT.
NEAT, WE COULD USE THE EXTRA HANDS. C'MON!
ALMOST THERE!
AWESOME, MORE SPOOKY OLD ROBOT JUNK. NOTHING COULD GO WRONG WITH *THAT*.
MR. SONIC, IT'S *TERRIBLE!* WE CAN'T BREAK THE CAGE WITHOUT HURTING THE POOR CHAO, AND THERE'S SO MANY LOCKS...
LOCKS?
I CAN DO LOCKS!
YOU CAN?
IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT COULD USE A LITTLE *TINKERING*, I'M YOUR GIRL.
HOORAY! THANK YOU!
WHOA-- WELL, OK THEN.

I'M CREAM! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BELLE! NICE TO MEET YOU. HEY, IS THAT GUY...?
A BIG MEANIE? YEP.
O-OH, OKAY...
WHAT'S UP?
I DIDN'T WANNA WORRY CREAM, BUT I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT ROUGE AND TAILS... IF ROUGE CHANGED THE PLAN, SHE SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME. WE NEED TO FIND THEM.
YEAH...
I'LL DO A SWEEP OUTSIDE. IF THEY'RE ANYWHERE IN WHITE PARK, I'LL FIND 'EM!
GOOD LUCK!
WHERE DID MR. SONIC GO?
UH--TO GO GET TAILS! HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
OUR SITUATION IS STILL EXTREMELY TENUOUS. WE DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR--
GEH HEH HEH...

UH OH-- CLUTCH!

SUBJECT WAS CONFIRMED *UNCONSCIOUS* MOMENTS AGO!

KEH HEH... HAVEN'T YOU KIDS EVER HEARD OF *PLAYING POSSUM?*

COME OUT AND *FIGHT FAIR!*

SKYOW

TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY, MISSY.

DO YOU KNOW WHY I CAN LEAVE MY DOOR UNLOCKED?

IT'S BECAUSE THE FOLKS WHO KNOW WHY AREN'T FOOLISH ENOUGH TO *CROSS* ME.

AND THE FOLKS WHO *DON'T...*

KLIK

GRRRAAAH!

...WON'T MAKE IT OUT ALIVE! SO LONG, GOOD DOING *BUSINESS* WITH *YA!*

BAM

GRRR

WE CAN TAKE THIS GUY. C'MON, GEMERL!

ACKNOWLEDGED. ENGAGING AT FULL POWER.

AIEE!

CREAM?!

SAWDUST-- BADNIKS AGAIN!

IT'S OKAY, GO! HELP CREAM!

I'M COMING!

...ALL RIGHT.

NOT A BAD SWING...

TRY MINE!

PLY KO

NO FAIR!

...

IF ONLY SONIC WERE HERE...!

NO! YOU AREN'T GOING TO LET THIS BIG, DUMB JERK PUSH YOU AROUND!

YOU'RE GONNA HANDLE IT YOUR-SELF!

LISTEN UP, YOU BUCKET'A BOLTS! BEING IN CHARGE OF THE RESTORATION WAS WAY TOUGHER THAN ANYTHING YOU CAN THROW AT ME.

BEATING UP BAD 'BOTS LIKE YOU IS MY SPECIALTY, SO...

...YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP NOW!

PIKO

AHA! NOT AS HARD-HEADED AS YOU LOOK, ARE YOU?

GRRRAH!

GROWL ALL YOU WANT, I'M GONNA GET YOU!

NEARBY...

CLACK-A-CLACK

OOH, MY HEAD IS SPINNING...

A-CLACK-A-

GAH! WHAT THE HECK?!

HEY, I LANDED THE TORNADO WHERE YOU SAID AND YOU *ATTACKED* ME! WHY--

I DIDN'T.

NOT OF MY OWN *FREE* WILL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I WAS *DUPED*, SWEETIE. CORNERED, INTERROGATED, AND, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT, *HYPNOTIZED!*

HYPNOTIZED?!

I WOULDN'T BUY IT EITHER, IF IT HADN'T HAPPENED TO ME.

BUT... *WHY?*

BEATS ME. BUT I THINK I KNOW *WHO...*

NOW, NOW... DON'T GO GIVING AWAY THE SURPRISE SO SOON!

I'M GLAD YOU ENJOYED MY LITTLE *MIND TRICK...* A SHAME IT WON'T LAST. I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER WITH A BIT MORE *TIME*, BUT IT WAS PLENTY FOR A TOUCH OF *SUBLIMINAL SUGGESTION.*

I LOOK FORWARD TO MORE SESSIONS WITH YOU, ROUGE. YOU REALLY WERE AN *EXCEPTIONAL* SLEEPER AGENT.

AS SOON AS THIS COASTER REACHES THE EDGE OF THE PARK, WE'LL HOP OFF AND MAKE OUR EXIT... WE'LL ALL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK WHEN YOU'RE SITTING COMFORTABLY IN MY *TEST CHAMBERS.*

IF I WERE A KID GENIUS AND/OR A SUPER-SPY, WHERE WOULD I BE...

THERE WE GO!

TIME TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

AH, EXCELLENT...

...IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR MY *BIG* SCENE.

HEY, WHAT'S...

GAH!

SPLAT

AAAAAA-..

--AAA?

WUMF

YOU COULDN'T DODGE THAT? YOU REALLY ARE AN EMBARR-ASSMENT.

OH! HI, SHADOW. NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO.

OUT OF MY WAY.

THANKS FOR THE CATCH. ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE COASTER, TOO?

I HAD THE WRONG MAN BEFORE--*NOT THIS TIME!*

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A "YES."

HEY, YOU! IT'S RUDE TO THROW ROLLER COASTERS AT PEOPLE! I EXPECT A *FULL* APOLOGY!

SONIC! *WATCH OUT.* IT'S--

A-A-AH, SIDEKICK...

...*I'LL* HANDLE THE DRAMATIC REVEAL, THANK-YOU-VERY-MUCH!

STARLINE! LONG TIME NO SEE, *SCUZZBALL.* WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING?

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, HEDGEHOG.*

I'M AFRAID I'M A BIT TOO BUSY FOR A FIGHT TODAY. PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO KIDNAP, YOU UNDERSTAND.

*FOR STARLINE'S STORY, CHECK OUT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: BAD GUYS--EDS.

NO WORRIES, I'LL MAKE IT AN EXTRA-QUICK BEATDOWN.

WAIT, I PREPARED A SURPRISE, JUST FOR YOU! IT'LL BE READY IN 3, 2, 1...

BOOM

...VOILA. WE HAD SUCH FUN IN THE SNOW *LAST* TIME*, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY AN ENCORE!

*SEE STH #14--EDS.

SO WHAT'LL IT BE?

SAVE YOUR FRIENDS, OR THE HUNDREDS OF *IGNORANT INNOCENTS* WAITING IN THE CHATEAU?

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

DUDE, WHAT THE HECK?! YOU'D SET OFF AN *ENTIRE AVALANCHE* FOR A *DISTRACTION?*

I KNOW IT'S A BIT OF A CLICHE, BUT I COULDN'T RESIST. THE HEROES, FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE MASSES, OR THE ONES THEY HOLD DEAR... IT'S A CLASSIC!

YOU DECIDE: A COUPLE HUNDRED TONS OF SNOW FALLING ON THOSE INNOCENT *HEADS...*

...OR TAILS?

ENOUGH GAMES.

HOLD ON! YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WITH THE SPEED TO CATCH UP WITH THAT AVALANCHE AND MAYBE STOP IT--

NOT INTERESTED.

OH, COME ON!

GO HELP THE CHATEAU, SONIC! WE'LL BE OK, I PROMISE!

YOU'D BETTER...

BROOM

HURRY, SHADOW! WE--

--WAIT, WHERE'S HE GOING?

O-OH, GOING STRAIGHT TO THE SHOWDOWN? NO MATTER! I BEAT YOU ONCE, I'LL DO IT AGAIN.

YOU DIDN'T BEAT ME...

...YOU ONLY *SEALED* YOUR FATE.

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF... WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS!

START CUTTING YOUR ROPES LIKE I DID, AND BE READY TO MOVE.

OMEGA, EXECUTE CODEWORD: *GET WHAT'S MINE!*

HEY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TIED U--

CODEWORD ACCEPTED: INITIATING AUDITORY INTERFERENCE!

GAH!

EFFICACY OF AUDITORY ATTACKS CONFIRMED! THIS UNIT IS NEVER UNARMED!

WHOAA!

NO!

HOLD ON, SHADOW. I WANT TO POUND HIS SMUG FACE IN TOO, BUT THERE'S *WORK* TO BE DONE.

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

I'M NOT-- IT'S YOUR CHOICE, AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT.

THAT OVERGROWN SNOWBALL ISN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM GETTING WHAT I CAME FOR-- C'MON, FOX BOY!

OKAY!

MEANWHILE...

I WISH I'D KNOWN I'D BE FIGHTING A GIANT ROBO-BEAR TODAY...

...I WOULD HAVE WORN MY GOOD BOOTS!

PIKO

GRRR

CRASH

HOW'S IT GOING OVER THERE, GEMERL?

HOLDING-- ZZT-- POSITION!

GEMERL, PLEASE RETREAT! YOU'RE HURTING YOURSELF!

I WILL PROTECT YOU...

...NO MATTER THE COST.

MS. BELLE, HOW MUCH LONGER?

THIS LAST LOCK'S A REAL HUMDINGER... GIMME A MINUTE OR TWO MORE!

I KNOW IT'S SCARY TO FIGHT, BUT MY FRIENDS ARE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE RIGHT NOW...

...WHEN WE GET YOU ALL OUT, COULD YOU HELP ME KEEP THEM SAFE?

PLEASE?

CHA-CHA-CHAO!

1000

CLANG

GEMERL!

WHAK

DONE! DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE!

THANK YOU!

NOW, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND... CHARGE!

CHAOOOO!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I MUST PROTECT YOU...

YOU ARE, SILLY!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT, BECAUSE I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU NEED HELP! WE'LL DO OUR *BEST TO PROTECT EACH OTHER!*

H-HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A LITTLE BREATHER?

GRRRAH!

PHOOEY.

CREAM... THANK YOU.

DON'T WORRY, MS. AMY! WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER!

YEAH!

QUICKLY, DESTROY ITS PROCESSING CORE!

Y'MEAN THE *HEAD*, RIGHT? 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT I'M SMASHING!

HIYAH!

PIKO

PIKO

THREAT NEUTRALIZED.

WHEW! BEING STUCK BEHIND A DESK, I HAVEN'T DONE THAT MUCH CARDIO IN A *WHILE!*

YOU ALL DID WONDER-FULLY!

CHAO-CHAO!

Gulch

WHAT THE HECK?!

SORRY TO DROP IN *UNANNOUNCED*, BUT...

GRAB THOSE E-100 SERIES PARTS, QUICK-- WE'VE GOTTA GO, *PEOPLE ARE IN DANGER!*

I'M USUALLY RUNNING *AWAY* FROM THESE THINGS, NOT TRYING TO *STOP* THEM! HOW AM I GONNA HANDLE THIS?

I DIDN'T KNOW STOPPING AN AVALANCHE INVOLVED SO MUCH HAND-WRINGING.

SHADOW! YOU SHOWED!

CONSIDER THIS A DEBT REPAID... FOR SUNSET CITY.*

*SEE STH #19-20--EDS.

NO WORRIES. OKAY, FOLLOW MY LEAD... I'VE GOT AN *IDEA!*

BZZZZ

ZRRRAK

SHAME ABOUT THE TREES, BUT IT'S WORTH IT.

HM. BETTER THAN I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED FROM YOU.

THOOM

KA-CRASH

!!!

RRRRRRRRRR

NO RUNNING INSIDE THE BUILDING, PLEASE! PROCEED AT A NORMAL WALKING PACE TO--

AN AVALANCHE IS HEADED TOWARDS US, YOU NEED TO GET ALL THE GUESTS TO SAFETY!

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, WE HAVE AN *OFFICIAL* WARNING SYSTEM IN PLACE.

IF SOMETHING WERE WRONG, I'M SURE--

GET THESE PEOPLE TO THE EXIT, OR I'LL MAKE SOME ***NEW*** EXITS WITH MY HAMMER-- CAPICHE?

O-OH! I-IN THAT CASE, WELL...

ATTENTION, GUESTS! WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WARNING OF AN IMPENDING DANGER TO THE CHATEAU.

PLEASE PROCEED TO THE EXITS AND CONGREGATE IN THE DESIGNATED SAFE ZONES.

GIVE THEM A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT, OMEGA.

ACKNOW-LEDGED, RAISING VOLUME.

RUN, PITIFUL TOURIST CREATURES, OR FACE CERTAIN DESTRUCTION!

WE SHOULD GET GOING, TOO.

NO... YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

I AM HAVING A VERY LONG DAY, SO I'LL KEEP THIS *SIMPLE*. ALL I REALLY NEED IS YOUNG MASTER PROWER THERE... HAND HIM OVER AND YOU CAN GO. *DEAL?*

DREAM ON, JERK!

I'M NOT IN THE GIVING MOOD, EITHER.

WHO IS THAT GUY?

DR. STARLINE? AN EGGMAN WANNABE.

THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WANNABE TO ME...

DON'T WORRY. NOBODY CAN BEAT AMY WHEN SHE'S MADE UP HER MIND!

WHAK

OH, NO, I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP HITTING YOU!

COULD THIS BE A SIDE EFFECT OF THAT *HYPNOTISM AND KIDNAPPING?*

FINE...!

WHUH-- HEY!

WHOOSH

TIME TO GO, FOX.

I DON'T THINK SO.

WHAT IN THE WORLD...?

AH! MY--

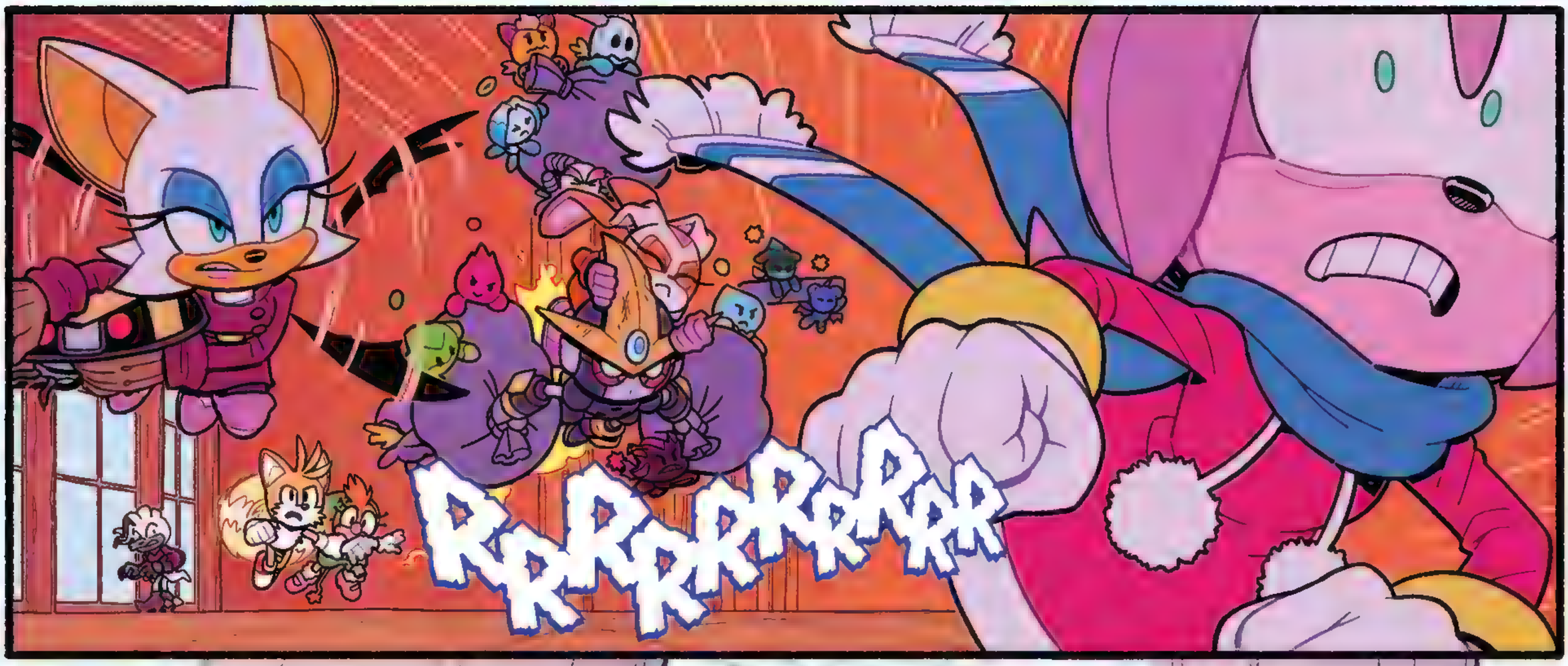
SHRRRR--

KLIK-DING

OH, COME ON! WHAT EVEN WAS THAT?!

WAIT, WHAT IS THAT SOUND?

...AH. RIGHT.



CRASH

THOOM

EVERYONE, REMAIN CALM! THE CHATEAU WAS BUILT TO WITHSTAND THIS SORT OF EVENT!

UNBELIEVABLE...

WE WOULD HAVE BEEN BURIED!

DO YOU THINK THEY'LL GIVE US A *REFUND*?

I REFUSE TO BE LEFT ON THE FLOOR. *ELEVATE ME IMMEDIATELY!*

NO SIGN OF THE BOYS... THIS ISN'T GOOD.

YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIND 'EM THAT WAY!

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A *HEDGEHOG*, YOU GOTTA GO TO THE *GROUND*.

THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GONNA GET DOWN *THERE* IS A COLD EAR.

SHUSH!

YOU SHOULD-- EH?

RMBLRMBLRMBL

WELL, I'LL BE DARNED.

PAFF

IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?
IT'S OKAY! THE GUESTS GOT OUT IN TIME!
SO WE WASTED OUR TIME.
STARLINE GOT HIT, AT LEAST. THAT HELP?
...HMPH.
WADDAYA KNOW, PUPPETY-GIRL STUCK AROUND.
SHE DID GREAT! WE GOT THE LAST HIT IN ON STARLINE--
--AND MS. BELLE HELPED ME FREE MR. CLUTCH'S CHAO!
HUH. NOT BAD!
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT! SORRY I WAS KINDA TOUGH ON YOU BEFORE...
SPEAKING OF, I COULD USE SOME HELP BACK AT MY WORKSHOP, IF YOU WOULD... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WAIT. *REALLY?* YOU WANT *MY* HELP IN YOUR WORKSHOP?!
YES...?
YES! ABSOLUTELY!
BACK AT THE WORKSHOP...

TIGHTEN UP THAT ELBOW JOINT JUST A SKOSH...

GOT IT!

WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR A "TEST-DRIVE" BY SPARRING A LITTLE WITH GEMERL?

SUGGESTION ACCEPTED. BUT I CANNOT GUARANTEE GEMERL'S WELFARE AFTER COMPLETING THE TEST.

WHILE I AM DESIGNED AS A *LEARNING* ROBOT, I AM ALSO CAPABLE OF TEACHING *YOU* A LESSON.

HELLO, MS. AMY! I'M HERE FOR CREAM. HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?

IT WAS AMAZING, MAMA!

RACES WERE SO *EXCITING!* CHEES
EN THOUGH THE OTHER CHAO WER
BUT IT WASN'T THEIR FAULT! AND WH
T THER AS AN *AVALANCHE*, SO
M ARLINE TRIED TO *STOP*

MY, THAT SOUNDS VERY EXCITING.

EXCITING, BUT ALSO *SAFE!*

BESIDES, IT WAS *ROUGE'S--?!*

ROUGE!

PHEW! IT GOT A LITTLE TOUCH-AND-GO AT THE END, THERE...

THINGS DIDN'T GO RIGHT, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT REALLY MATTERED.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO HELP.

DON'T OVERTHINK IT, HEDGEHOG.

...

FOR SURE, DUDE.

IT'S SO *NICE* TO BE HELPING OUT!

FIXING THINGS, SOLVING PROBLEMS... I'VE *MISSED* THIS.

UH-HUH...

...THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN'T FIGURE OUT. THIS WHOLE TIME, YOU'VE BEEN READING THESE BLUEPRINTS LIKE IT WAS *NOTHING*.

THE WHOLE REASON SONIC AND I WERE IN THE BASE WAS BECAUSE I NEEDED A CIPHER SO I COULD *DECODE* THESE FILES.

THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO READ THIS IS DR. EGGMAN... OR MAYBE SOMETHING HE *CREATED*, LIKE ORBOT.

I'M NOT MAD, I JUST WISH YOU'D BEEN *HONEST* WITH ME.

HE DIDN'T CREATE ME.

...

THEN WHO *DID*?

=SIGH= OKAY.

FAR AWAY...

UGH, WHAT A DISASTER. WOULD IT *HURT* THEM TO GO ALONG WITH THE PLAN FOR ONCE?

IT'S GOING TO TAKE *WEEKS* TO GET MY BILL BACK TO NORMAL.

AND THEY *COMPLETELY* RUINED MY PERM!

ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT ALL FOR NAUGHT.

LIVE
Laugh
LOVE

THE *COMPLETE SPECIMEN* WOULD HAVE BEEN IDEAL, BUT I STILL GOT WHAT I *NEEDED*.

YES... THIS SHOULD DO *NICELY*.

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

AND YOU'RE SURE THE RESTORATION WILL TAKE ME?

TOTALLY! THEY'RE SUPER CHILL.

EVERYBODY THERE IS A VOLUNTEER WHO JUST WANTS TO HELP FOLKS THAT'VE HAD IT TOUGH RECENTLY WITH ALL THE CRAZY STUFF GOIN' ON.*

*MOST RECENTLY, REBUILDING AFTER THE METAL VIRUS SAGA FROM *STH* #13-32--EDS.

AND ALONG WITH HELPING THOSE IMPACTED BY THE METAL VIRUS, THEY'VE BEEN WORKING TO FIND ANYBODY WHO IS STILL MISSING, LIKE YOUR CREATOR.

GOTCHA...

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE? SORRY, BUT IT LOOKS A LITTLE... RUINED.

SURE, I'M SURE!

THIS IS THE SPOT!

CARE TO DO THE HONORS, BUDDY?

ON IT!

THIS IS A TOOL SHED.

IT SURE IS...

...IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO *LOOK* FOR!

CHUNK

YEEK!

YOU MIGHT WANNA HOLD ONTO SOMETHING.

WELCOME TO THE RESTORATION-- OR THEIR *BACK DOOR*, AT LEAST.

AMY TOLD ME THEY DECIDED TO PRESERVE THIS TOWN'S RUINS AS A *MEMORIAL* TO WHAT PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY LOST.

INSTEAD, THEY'RE BUILDING *WITHIN* WHAT'S LEFT OVER.

BESIDES...

...WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE A PLACE LIKE THIS?

GEARS AND STARTERS... THIS PLACE IS *AMAZING!*

YEAH, IT'S WAY COOLER THAN THEIR OLD PLACE.

Grocer

HM. WHERE DO YA SUPPOSE WE COULD FIND--?

...

SONIC!

Hi!!

JUST LIKE CLOCKWORK... HOW DOES SHE DO THAT?

HEY, AMY, WEREN'T YOU DONE WITH DIRECTOR-Y STUFF...?

OH! I'M JUST HERE TO WRAP UP A COUPLE LITTLE THINGS AND MAKE SURE JEWEL'S OKAY.

WHICH I MOST CERTAINLY AM!

WE'RE HERE 'CAUSE WE WERE HOPING THE RESTORATION MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP OUT BELLE. SHE NEEDS A PLACE TO STAY.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

MY, WELL... ANY FRIEND OF SONIC'S IS WELCOME HERE. THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.

OF COURSE, EVERYBODY IN THE RESTORATION PITCHES IN AS BEST THEY CAN WHILE THEY'RE HERE.

WHAT SORT OF SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?

OH, *UH*-- WOOD-WORKING, MOSTLY.

WE DON'T DO A LOT OF THAT, BUT MAYBE SOMETHING IN THE MACHINE SHOP...?

EXCUSE ME! WOULD YOU MIND TAKING THIS NEW VOLUNTEER OVER TO THE MACHINE SHOP?

YES, DIRECTOR!

PLEASE, "JEWEL" IS FINE.

YES, DIRECTOR JEWEL. FOLLOW ME, RECRUIT.

DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL DO GREAT!

TH-THANKS...

C'MON, WE'LL GIVE YOU THE GRAND TOUR!
YOU GUYS HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN BUSY TIDYING THIS PLACE UP.
INDEED-- AT FIRST IT SEEMED LIKE WE'D NEVER GET THROUGH IT!
BUT YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IF YOU TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME...
...AND HERE WE ARE!
HERE YOU ARE. IF I HAVE TO LOOK AT ANOTHER EQUIPMENT REQUISITION FORM, I'LL SCREAM.
UHM, MS. JEWEL? SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE A LOOK AT THIS...

MEANWHILE...

WHAT KIND OF ROBOT IS THAT?

KINDA CREEPY...

...WHAT'S WITH HER NOSE?

HERE WE ARE, THE MACHINE SHOP.

SIR! I HAVE A NEW RECRUIT FOR YOU, STRAIGHT FROM THE DIRECTOR.

WHAT'D I TELL YOU ABOUT THAT OFFICIAL-TYPE STUFF? YOU GOTTA RELAX, SISTER.

YES, SI--OKAY. DULY NOTED.

THAT'S A FAR-OUT LOOK. WHAT'S YOUR MAKE?

CUSTOM-BUILT... I'M BELLE, NICE TO MEET YOU.

GROOVY. GRAB A WRENCH AND GIMME A HAND WITH THIS DONPA SEDAN HERE.

ZRRRRR

GET YOURSELF TOGETHER, BELLE!

YOU WERE BUILT FOR THIS KIND OF WORK, SO STOP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF YOU!

KLIK-DING

OH, SAWDUST--

WHAM

CRASH

SCREEEEEEEE

MOVE! EVERYBODY OUT!

GOTTA HELP STOP--

DON'T WORRY, GUYS, I GOT THIS! NO "BOATS" ABOUT IT.

CINCH

LITTLE HELP? THIS IS KINDA HEAVY. REALLY HEAVY. PLEASE HURRY.

WHEW...

YOU!

YOU'RE A LIABILITY TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS, AND I CAN'T HAVE THOSE KINDA VIBES IN MY SHOP, SO MAKE TRACKS BEFORE I--

I'M SO, SO SORRY, I SWEAR I CAN'T--

--OH?

EASY, CHIEF! I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

FINE, BOTH OF YOU SCRAM... YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED IN HERE, TANGLE. NOT AFTER THE BALL BEARING INCIDENT.

YOU'VE GOT NO APPRECIATION FOR PHYSICAL COMEDY.

YOU CAUSE ONE LITTLE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT AND YOU'LL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT. THEY SHOULD CALL IT THE RULES-TORATION, *HUH?*

OUFF, THIS IS A DISASTER...

NAAAH... YOU'RE NEW, RIGHT? FIRST DAYS ARE ALWAYS TOUGH.

BESIDES, THAT KICK WAS EPIC! HOW'D THAT EVEN HAPPEN?

OH, YEAH... IF MY TAIL GETS PULLED, I DO THIS KICK THING. IT'S AUTOMATIC. SORRY.

WEIRD TAIL BUDDIES...

PLEASE DON'T PULL THAT.

I'M TANGLE. WE COULD PULL THE SICKEST STUNTS WITH THESE BABIES. LET'S BE FRIENDS.

I'M BELLE, NICE TO MEET YOU...?

NOW WE JUST NEED SOMETHING EXCITING TO HAPPEN...

EXCITING HOW?

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FREAK STORMS ALL ALONG THE COAST? NO WAY IT'S NATURAL.

IS IT DR. EGGMAN AGAIN?

WHO KNOWS? I'M JUST GLAD IT'S NOT MY JOB TO FIGURE IT OUT.

OH, BOY...

JEWEL! WE GOT TROUBLE! THERE'S A--

--OH.

YO, TANGLE! LONG TIME NO SEE. BELLE, SHORT TIME NO SEE!

HEY, SONIC. SO WHAT'S--

AH, HERE WE GO!

THIS WAS THE LAST PICTURE OUR SCOUTING DRONE WAS ABLE TO GET BEFORE THE STORM SURGE TOOK IT OUT.

LOOK AT THE ENERGY COMING OFF THE TOP, SOMETHING THAT POWERFUL WOULD AFFECT CLOUD FORMATION IN THE AREA, THUS CAUSING THE STORMS.

THIS IS BEYOND WHAT THE RESTORATION'S EQUIPPED TO HANDLE, BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE THOSE VILLAGES IN DANGER...

NO WORRIES! IF EGGMAN'S UP TO SOMETHING, TAILS AND I CAN HANDLE IT.

AND ME! I'M NOT MISSING OUT ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE WITH *YOU*, SONIC.

OOH! YES! MISSION TIME!

HOLD ON, TANGLE...

THAT TOWER... HE MIGHT BE THERE.

YOU'RE ON INVENTORY DUTY THIS WEEK. YOU'VE GOT DONATIONS TO CATALOGUE.

BUT, JEWEL...

BUT IF I SAY I NEED TO GO, THEY'LL WANT TO KNOW WHY... I CAN'T RISK IT.

EVERYBODY IN THE RESTORATION HAS TO DO THEIR PART.

WE'LL HIT YOU UP NEXT TIME EGGY SUMMONS A GOD OF DESTRUCTION OR DIGS UP SOME ANCIENT FIGHTING ROBOTS, PROMISE.

SORRY, TANGLE, BUT I HAVE A LOT OF REPORTS TO GET THROUGH... COULD YOU--

YEAH, YEAH, INVENTORY TIME. C'MON, BELLE.

Y'KNOW WHAT, I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA...!

LATER, A FEW MILES OFFSHORE OF SEASIDE CITY...

YUP, THIS IS DEFINITELY THE PLACE.

SONIC

WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO THIS TIME?

MAYBE SOME KINDA WEATHER MACHINE? IT'D BE JUST LIKE HIM TO TRY AND RAIN ON EVERYONE'S PARADE.

ROGER!

COME IN BEHIND ME, I'LL CLEAR THE WAY.

THUNK

BOOM

Y'KNOW, IF WE'RE GOING INSIDE...

...IT'S ONLY POLITE TO *KNOCK!*

WHAM

WHOA!

THE HECK?!

WHAM!

YOU'RE *SURE* ABOUT THIS PLAN?

YOU WANNA HELP SONIC, DON'CHA?

WELL, *YEAH*...

OOH. NOW *THAT'S* A RIDE.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD...

YOU CAN GET IT GOING?

OHO... YOU BETCHA!

THIS SHOULD ONLY TAKE A MINUTE.

SIGH...

...I JOINED THE RESTORATION WHEN JEWEL TOOK OVER TO SUPPORT HER, BUT NOW I HARDLY EVEN SEE HER. BUT SHE'S WORKING HARD TO HELP PEOPLE, AND LIKE, SHE'S IMPORTANT NOW, SO...

...MAYBE THIS IS A BAD IDEA. WE SHOULD GO BACK AND--

ZAP

WHOA-HO-HO!

I GUESS WE'RE DOING THIS!

LET'S GO!

HHMMMM

TANGLE!

WHAT IN THE...

EXIT TO SURFACE

FAIR WARNING, I'VE NEVER DRIVEN ONE OF THESE THINGS BEFORE.

TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

MEANWHILE...

--AAAAH!

SHAZAP

WHATEVER THIS IS, IT'S BROKEN BEYOND REPAIR... I'D GUESS WE OVERLOADED IT WHEN WE FELL THROUGH.

I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START TO FIX IT.

I SURE HOPE IT DIDN'T SET OFF A *SPECIAL ALARM* OR SOMETHING...

WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, AT LEAST IT GOT US INSIDE.

EZTRAK

WHAT THE HECK KIND OF DOOR WAS THAT?!

LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN FIND SOME ANSWERS!

OOH, DIBS!

ZWEEP

GOTTA BE GETTING CLOSE NOW! WHERE THERE'S 'BOTS, THERE'S SOMETHING WORTH FINDING.

YEAH!

STRANGE... WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS DOING WITH CHALK?

WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT--NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE WHEN WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER!

TEN MINUTES LATER...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THIS PLACE NEVER ENDS.

HOLD ON, YOU GUYS. I WANT TO TEST SOMETHING OUT.

OH?

FOLLOW ME!

IF MY HYPOTHESIS IS CORRECT, THEN...

...WHEN WE TURN THIS CORNER...

YES! THE MARK I MADE IS GONE!

BUT WE JUST WENT IN A CIRCLE! HOW?

SOMEHOW, THIS PLACE IS CHANGING AROUND US AS WE MOVE THROUGH IT!

WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

WELL, *UH*--I DON'T KNOW. I HADN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD.

MY TURN FOR A LITTLE EXPERIMENT... HANG ON TIGHT!

IF THIS PLACE WANTS TO SHIFT AROUND ON US...

..LET'S SEE IF IT CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!

BOOM

I THINK IT'S WORKING, KEEP GOING!

WHOA-- NO WAY!

WHERE TO NOW?

I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHICH WAY IS UP...

FASTER.

WHUH-- ARE YOU SURE?

NOPE! BUT SOMETHING'S TELLING ME THAT IF WE CAN OUT-PACE THIS MAZE, THEN...

...WE CAN BREAK IT TOO!

PIKO

?!

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

ART BY MATT HERMS

WHOAAA...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I EXPECTED, BUT IT WASN'T *THIS!*

FASCINATING...!

SWP-FWP-FWP-FWP

HANG ON, YOU TWO!

WHOOSH

GOT A THEORY ABOUT WHAT WE'RE LOOKIN' AT, BUD?

MY *HYPOTHESIS* IS THAT EGGMAN HAS CREATED A SPACE WHERE HE CAN SOMEHOW *CIRCUMVENT* NORMAL SPATIAL LAWS...

...THUS ALLOWING HIM TO CONSTRUCT AN AUTONOMOUSLY TESSELLATING, PROPORTIONALLY EXPANSIVE STRUCTURE WITHOUT CONCERN OVER TYPICAL PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS!

IF I CAN FIND SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MY HYPOTHESIS, THEN IT'LL BE A THEORY.

UH--

WE'RE IN A WEIRD BUBBLE WHERE EGGMAN'S MESSING WITH PHYSICS, I THINK.

IS IT SOME SORT OF TRAP?

MAYBE. BUT CONSIDERING HOW EASILY WE BROKE OUT OF IT, I'M NOT SO SURE.

EGGMAN KNOWS WHAT WE CAN DO, AND IF HE MEANT TO TRAP US, HE WOULD HAVE COMPENSATED FOR THAT.

THERE! AN EXIT! AS I SUSPECTED, THIS PLACE ISN'T NEARLY AS BIG AS IT LOOKS.

ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN HERE... LET'S GO!

SHA-

ZAP

AND NOW MY HYPOTHESIS IS A THEORY.

SOLID GROUND--MY FAVORITE!

MAYBE DON'T CELEBRATE YET...

...'CAUSE THIS PLACE IS GIVING ME SOME SERIOUSLY WEIRD VIBES.

THERE IT IS!

I'LL BRING US IN EASY.

OOF-- OR NOT.

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEED TO FIND ANOTHER WAY TO GET BACK.

CRASH

THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR FUTURE US. LET'S GET IN THERE!

DEFINITELY LOOKS LIKE SONIC CAME THIS WAY...

PERFECT! WITH ANY LUCK, WE CAN CATCH UP WITH 'EM IN NO TIME.

BELLE!

SORRY!

C'MON!

JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD... I'M AN EXPERT STEALTH-ER.

THAT'S... DIFFERENT. ARE THEY BUILDING SOMETHING?

ANYTHING THEY CAN BUILD, WE CAN BUST. LET'S START CLIMBING!

...HAS THAT PAWN SQUAD GOTTEN THE HOLE FIXED YET?

LOOKS LIKE THEY ALL GOT LOST.

SEND IN ANOTHER ONE, THEN. OH, WHAT A MESS. SO MUCH FOR HAVING A NICE, QUIET JOB.

HOW DID SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS EVEN FIND OUT ABOUT THIS BASE?

AT LEAST THEY'RE STUCK IN CHAMBER 1.

THEY GOT INTO CHAMBER 2.

THEY CAN DO THAT?!

I'M AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE!

CUBOT, YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.

OH, SAY IT AIN'T SO!

I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

JUST GET IT OVER WITH!

BIP

MAYBE HE WON'T PICK UP...?

I'M BUSY, SO MAKE IT QUICK!

WHAT'VE YOU TWO MESSED UP NOW?

NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL! IT'S JUST...

YOU'RE INTERRUPTING SOME VERY IMPORTANT BRAINSTORMING, ORBOT...

THERE MIGHT BE A *SLIGHT* HITCH IN OPERATIONS--

--SONIC AND HIS BUDDIES BROKE INTO THE TEST CHAMBERS.

FLINCH

UH, BOSS? YOU'RE NOT YELLING AT US.

DO YOU THINK HE'S FINALLY LOSING HIS TOUCH?

SHUT IT, CUBOT...

SO, SONIC'S ARRIVED? IT'S UNEXPECTED, BUT PERHAPS NOT ENTIRELY *UNWELCOME*.

AS THEY SAY, WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS... I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

THAT WAS... DR. EGGMAN.

YUP. AND IF HE'S PLANNING SOMETHING, WE *REALLY* NEED TO FIND THE OTHERS.

I-I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO SOUND SO--

SLIP

--AAH!

BELLE!

OW!

CLATTA

?

GASHUNK-
GASHUNK-

!!

GASHUNK-
GASHUNK-
GASHUNK-

...

YEEK!

SHWHIP

WHAT WAS *THAT* ALL ABOUT?

I-I HAVE NO IDEA--

I WASN'T SURE BEFORE, BUT THIS PROVES IT. WHATEVER I WAS BUILT WITH, INSIDE... IT'S THE SAME AS THEM.

I AM A *BADNIK*.

BUT I... I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE. I JUST NEED ANSWERS. AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD KNOW IS DR. EGGMAN.

THE TRUTH. YOU WANTED TO COME HERE MORE THAN I DID. *WHY?*

IF YOU WANT TO *LEAVE*, OR SMASH ME, I UNDERSTAND-- *HUH?*

SONIC AND TAILS VOUCHED FOR YOU, SO YOU'RE ALRIGHT IN MY BOOK. BESIDES...

...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU CAME FROM, BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO DO GOOD TODAY.

DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE WE CAN FIND YOU SOME ANSWERS.

SOMETHING IS *DEFINITELY* UP HERE.

YEAH, THE DESIGN OF THESE HOUSES IS SO *TACKY!*

OH, AND THE WHOLE COMPLETELY ABANDONED THING, TOO. THAT'S NOT GREAT.

I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND!

WAIT, THIS PLACE IS PROBABLY USING--

--THE SAME SPATIAL WARPING AS THE MAZE.

HUH. SO IT IS.

NO PROBLEM! I'LL JUST OVERLOAD IT AGAIN, AND--

GUYS, LOOK!

THIS ONE'S OPEN.

CREEAK

HELLOOO?

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN HERE THAT CAN--OH!

HI! SORRY FOR BARGING IN, BUT COULD YOU TELL US WHERE--

--WE ARE?

ARE THOSE... TEST DUMMIES?

I'M OFFICIALLY UPGRADING THIS SITUATION FROM "WEIRD" TO "SUPER CREEPY."

CLIK-CLIK-CLIK

THERE!

SCRAAAAPE

CLIK-CLIK-CLIK

HISSS

AAAH!

SMASH

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

OH, C'MON!

WHAT IS UP WITH THESE BADNIKS?!

AS LONG AS THEY'RE STILL SMASHABLE...!

THEY'RE... COMBINATIONS?

YOU SAID IT, AMY.

WHAM-

WHAM-

WHAM

BLOCK THE WINDOWS-- DON'T LET ANY MORE OF 'EM IN!

RIGHT!

UH, OH...

SCRRRRAPE

...THAT'S NOT GOOD.

SONIC, THE WHOLE STREET'S FULL OF BADNIKS--THERE'RE TOO MANY FOR US TO HANDLE HEAD-ON!

SO WE'RE STUCK IN HERE WITH NO ROOM TO RUN--FANTASTIC.

WE'VE BOUGHT OURSELVES A LITTLE TIME, AT LEAST. TIME TO MAKE A PLAN!

ALRIGHT, I'M ALL EARS. WHAT'S NEXT?

ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME IDEAS...

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRACK THE BADNIKS' WIRELESS COMM SIGNALS BACK TO THEIR SOURCE... THAT MIGHT GET US TO AN EXIT.

GIMME A MINUTE TO GET THE SENSORS CALIBRATED.

GREAT! THAT'S A START.

WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY ANY OF THIS IS HAPPENING, THOUGH.

I'M STILL BETTING ON IT BEING A TRAP, BUT...

IT ALL FEELS KIND OF ARBITRARY AND *IMPERSONAL*.

EGGMAN *DOES* LIKE TO RUB IT IN OUR FACES WHEN HE THINKS HE'S GOT US.

UGH! ALL THIS MYSTERY IS PUTTING MY *QUILLS* ON EDGE.

OH HO HO

NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

I'D KNOW THAT LAUGH ANYWHERE... *WHERE ARE YOU,* EGGMAN?!

FAR FROM *YOUR* REACH, HEDGEHOG.

WHAT'S THE PLAN, DOC? TRAP US IN HERE AND FORCE US TO LIVE ON BURNT TOAST?

TRAP YOU? NOT AT ALL.

THIS WHOLE PLACE... IS A *TEST.*

NOT FOR *YOU,* THOUGH. FOR MY MOST *CUTTING-EDGE* TECHNOLOGICAL CONCEPTS.

A CRUCIBLE, YOU MIGHT SAY, FOR WHAT COULD BECOME THE NEXT GENERATION OF *MECHANICAL MONSTROSITIES* LET LOOSE ON YOUR *UNSUSPECTING* PLANET.

SO REALLY, I SHOULD *THANK* YOU FOR BREAKING IN! AFTER ALL...

...NOW I GET TO TEST MY TOYS ON SOME *REAL* DUMMIES!

HO HO HO

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

ART BY ABBY BULMER COLORS BY JOANA LAFUENTE

COME ON, LET'S KEEP THE TEST CHAMBER SUPPLIED!

NEW MONSTROSITIES, COMIN' RIGHT UP...

CHUNK

DING

DING

RRRR

WHADDAYA THINK IT'LL BE THIS TIME?

OOH, THAT'S A NEW ONE!

FWOOOB

I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET ON THAT GUY'S BAD SIDE.

A SURPRISINGLY EFFECTIVE COMBINATION!

HAVE FUN WREAKING HAVOC!

DO YOU THINK THEY'RE SENDING THOSE THINGS AFTER SONIC AND THE OTHERS...?

I GOT THIS. SIT TIGHT AND WATCH A MASTER AT WORK!

HMM...

...NOT THE BEST.

MAYBE IT'LL GET A HIT IN IF IT FLAILS EXTRA HARD?

FWIP

OH, DEAR--I SPENT FOUR HOURS STACKING THOSE ALPHABETICALLY!

WHY?

IT HELPS WITH MY ANXIET

AAAAAAA!!

SNATCH

GOTCHA! WORKS EVERY TIME... MOST OF THE TIME.

OH, *DEAR.*

THE BOSS ISN'T GONNA BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS.

WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO, EGGMAN, IT'S NOT GONNA WORK!

ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S WORKING SPLENDIDLY!

EVERY MOVE YOU THREE MAKE, EACH TRICK OR TRAP YOU WEEDLE YOUR WAY AROUND...

...WHY, THAT'S ALL DATA ON HOW I CAN MAKE MY TECHNOLOGY *EVEN BETTER* IN THE FUTURE.

AND OH, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW YOU HANDLE WHAT I'VE BEEN COOKING UP NEXT!

ИИДИ

WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT, SO I CAN SHOW YOU?

CRASH

YOU GOT THAT THING CALIBRATED TO TRACK THE 'BOTS YET, BUD?

I THINK SO, YES!

THE BADNIKS' COMM SIGNALS ARE EMANATING FROM... THAT DIRECTION!

NICE! ALL ABOARD THE HEDGEHOG EXPRESS, WE'RE GETTIN' OUT OF HERE.

THUD

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD...

AAAA

OKAY, FALLING INTO THE VOID IS OFFICIALLY POSTPONED. WHAT NOW?

I-I DON'T KNOW! I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY SORT OF UNUSUAL READINGS.

AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THINGS ARE GONNA FLIP BACK ANYTIME SOON...

...HM.

WHAT?

YOU WANT TO GO WITH IT? WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S DOWN--I MEAN, UP THERE!

HE SAID HE WANTED TO SHOW US SOMETHING, AND EGGMAN WOULD NEVER THROW AWAY A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF.

AND HE CAN'T DO THAT IF WE'RE DEAD... IT'S PLAUSIBLE.

A LEAP OF FAITH--*HOW ROMANTIC!*

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE--OH, NEVERMIND.

YOU'D BETTER HOLD ME EXTRA-TIGHT, SONIC!

WE SHOULD'VE TRIED TO GATHER MORE EVIDENCE, OR--

STAY COOL. ANY SECOND NOW...

...HA! WHAT'D I TELL YA? ONE DRAMATIC SHOWDOWN, COMING UP.

WHAM

ALRIGHT EGGMAN, WE'RE HERE! COME ON OUT, AND LET'S GET THIS DONE.

STAY CLOSE, GUYS.

LET'S DANCE, RODENT!

TAILS!

GAH!

NOT BAD, IS IT? I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS...

THAT ONE IS *NOT* VERY CUTE.

A HIGH-VOLTAGE CHARGE LIKE THAT IS *REALLY* DANGEROUS...

I'VE DEALT WITH THIS KINDA 'BOT BEFORE.

A NEW COAT OF PAINT AND SOME NEW BELLS AND WHISTLES WON'T BE ENOUGH TO STOP ALL THREE OF US!

YEAH!

YOU THREE WON'T BE SO CONFIDENT AFTER YOU GET A LOAD OF *THIS!*

I'VE GOT THIS ONE!

PIKO

NICE! LET'S FOLLOW IT UP, TAILS!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

ZAK

ARE YOU OKAY?

RRGH--YEAH. CAN YOU GET ME A CLEAR SHOT OF THE COCKPIT?

I'LL TRY...!

CRASH

LIKE I SAID, NO MATCH FOR US! MIGHT AS WELL CALL IT QUITS NOW, DOC.

BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN!

EHH?!

THAT'S ONE POINT FOR YOU... LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO IN ROUND TWO!

GAH HA HA!

BLAM

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!

I DUNNO, BUT WHATEVER HE'S UP TO, I THINK THAT WAS JUST AN *APPETIZER*...

...GET READY FOR THE MAIN COURSE.

THREE ON THREE... NOW IT'S A *FAIR* FIGHT!

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T CRUSH YOU TOO QUICKLY...

...I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN AGES!

HA-HA!

WHO'S READY TO HEAT THINGS UP?

YOU JERK...

...YOUR PUNS AREN'T EVEN THAT GOOD!

AAH-- FIRE! HELP!

BWOSH

SONIC! AMY!

WHEW, NICE CATCH!

WHERE'S--

--AH.

AT LEAST I'M NOT ON FIRE ANYMORE.

I'D SAY THAT'S A POINT FOR ME AND MY *GENIUS*...

"...TIME FOR THE TIE-BREAKER!"

DO WHAT YOU WILL, WE'LL NEVER TELL YOU WHERE YOUR FRIENDS ARE!

OH, THAT'S FINE...

Y'KNOW, I'M BEGINNING TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS.

IT'D BE REALLY DANGEROUS TO TRY AND SAVE THEM. I COULD GET HURT, OR WORSE!

THAT'D BE REALLY BAD FOR ME, DON'T YOU THINK?

OH, IN THAT CASE--

NO, CUBOT! IT'S REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS.

DANGIT, I WAS SURE THAT WOULD WORK.

ANY SECOND NOW, A TROOP OF EGG PAWNS WILL ARRIVE--

OH, YEAH, NO. I'VE REDIRECTED THEM.

BIP!

TANGLE, I THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING.

WHO IS THAT? IS SHE ONE OF *OURS?*

I DON'T KNOW!

THIS IS A LIVE FEED.

VIPER 01

WHOA!

WE GOTTA GET IN THERE! WHERE ARE THEY? IS IT CLOSE?

I DUNNO... I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE ON THE SCHEMATIC OF THE TOWER.

THOSE GATE-LOOKING THINGS ARE ALL OVER THIS PLACE, THOUGH.

OH, YEAH! I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH ONES ARE CONNECTED...

...ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE A WHILE.

OBOY. LET ME SEE IF I CAN NARROW IT DOWN...

DON'T BOTHER. I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

OH! I GUESS I'D BETTER START TRYING OUT THESE GATES! HERE I GO...

...

...PSYCHI'MTRYINGTHISONE!

NOT THAT ONE!

OH? WOULD THAT BE A BAD GATE FOR ME TO GO THROUGH?

YES! I MEAN NO! I MEAN... OH, DEAR.

AND THAT'S HOW YOU GET IT DONE.

YOU KEEP AN EYE ON THESE TWO WHILE I'M IN THERE, OK?

WHILE YOU'RE-- OH, NO.

YOU'RE GOING TO JUMP INTO IT.

YUP!

ARE YOU NUTS? *GEARS AND STARTERS*, EVEN IF IT DOES GET YOU THERE, WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT *WORKS!*

WHAT IF YOUR MOLECULES GET SCRAMBLED, OR I DON'T KNOW, *HALF* OF YOU ENDS UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE *OCEAN* INSTEAD?!

GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME WITH THIS THING, SO WE'RE SURE--

YOU SAW HOW THE FIGHT WAS GOING FOR THEM-- THEY NEED HELP *NOW*. NO TIME FOR SECOND-GUESSING.

BUT...

WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS. TRUSTING YOUR GUT AND ACCEPTING THE CONSEQUENCES IS JUST WHAT HEROES *DO*.

TRUST ME ON THIS.

...OKAY.

HERE GOES NOTHING!

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

ART BY TRACY YARDLEY COLORS BY LEONARDO ITO

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #40

HAVING FUN YET? I KNOW I AM!

GAH!

SPLSHHH

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE WRAPPED THIS UP, THOUGH.

D-DON'T WORRY, TAILS...!

!

I'LL MAKE IT QUICK. AFTER ALL, I'M A BUSY MAN.

SPSH-PSH-PSH

HEY, DOC!

HEADS DOWN, GUYS!

THANKS FOR THE SHOWER...

...BUT I THINK YOU NEED ONE MORE!

WHA-- NO!

RIGHT ON TIME.

AMY, GIMME A BOOST!

HUH? TAILS CAN--

--NO TIME! GET ME UP THERE!

IF YOU SAY SO...

PIKO

NO BLOW-DRY? WHAT KIND OF SALON ARE YOU RUNNING HERE?

YOU INFURIATING LITTLE...

WHOOSH

ZWEE

WHAM

ARE YOU OKAY?

NEVER BETTER! SAY, WHEN DID YOU GET *FOUR* TAILS...?

WHUMMMM

NO MORE FUN AND GAMES.

MEANWHILE, ABOVE...

WHO'S READY TO--

--GAAK!

THWAM

TANGLE?! WHAT--

I WAS IN THE AREA AND I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY...

"...I HOPE YOU LEFT ME SOMETHING TO SMASH!"

AH, MISS?

MIGHT I INQUIRE--

I'M NOT AN EGGMAN ROBOT. AT LEAST, NOT LIKE...

...OH, I DON'T KNOW. IT'S COMPLICATED.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

THE BOSS? SURE, WE'RE HIS RIGHT-HAND ROBOTS!

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR HIM?

NOTHING SPECIAL. COOK, CLEAN, MAKE COFFEE...

HE'S VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THAT! NICE AND STRONG, NO MILK--

--AND LOTS AND LOTS OF SUGAR.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO NINCOMPOOPS DOING?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT BLASTED LEMUR HAD GOTTEN IN?!

YEEK!

THESE LITTLE PESTS ARE MAKING MESS OF--

--WAIT, WHAT WAS THAT VOICE? ENGAGING AUTOPILOT...

WELL, WELL... WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

UNCONVENTIONAL MATERIAL, BUT I'D RECOGNIZE THAT JOINT DESIGN ANYWHERE...

...THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON ON THIS PLANET WHO BUILDS MACHINES LIKE THAT. *ME.*

YES... YOU'RE THE LITTLE HELPER I PUT TOGETHER WHILE I WAS DELUSIONAL, THINKING I WAS SOME SORT OF SMALL-TOWN INVENTOR.*

EVEN IN THAT IMPARED STATE, I WAS STILL INNOVATING!

REMIND ME, WHAT DID "MR. TINKER" CALL YOU?

B-BELLE. BELLE THE TINKERER.

AHH, HOW... SWEET.

*ISSUES 5-6--EDS.

DON'T GO ANYWHERE. I HAVE QUESTIONS FOR YOU. BUT FIRST, I HAVE A HEDGEHOG I NEED TO CRUSH--

WAIT! YOU CAN'T--SORRY, I MEAN, YOU WOULDN'T...

?

YOU WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, NOT WITHOUT A REASON.

PLEASE, TELL ME THAT THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

I-I MEAN, HE WOULDN'T...

HMM. YOU CARED FOR MY ALTER-EGO. VERY WELL, I'LL GIVE YOU A REASON.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE TOWER YOU FIND YOURSELF IN.

"FOR A MAN OF MY INTELLECTUAL CALIBER, THE RESTRAINTS OF REALITY CAN, AT TIMES, BECOME STIFLING... MERELY TINKERING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR BANAL WORLD NO LONGER SATISFIES.

"THAT'S WHERE THIS PLACE COMES IN."

"BEHOLD... I HAVE BENT THE LAWS OF PHYSICS THEMSELVES TO MY WILL! THIS MAZE GROWS AND FOLDS BACK ON ITSELF AD INFINITUM, A LABYRINTH WITHOUT PEER.

"THE ROBOTS I'VE SENT IN WILL BURN OUT LONG BEFORE THEY ESCAPE.

"ONE DAY, IT WILL HAVE THE RESILIENCE TO HOLD EVEN SONIC, AND HE ISN'T NEARLY SO DURABLE.

"NEXT, A MODEL OF SORTS. A PERFECT SIMULATION OF A TRAGICALLY IMPERFECT WORLD, NOT YET UNDER MY CONTROL.

"I CAN TEST HOW QUICKLY MY BADNIK HORDES CAN OVERTAKE A TOWN, TO 'RECRUIT' A FRESH CROP OF UNSUSPECTING TEST SUBJECTS.

"OH, AND I ESPECIALLY LIKE THIS-- A NEW WAY FOR MY BADNIKS TO EVOLVE, DISCOVERING NEW WAYS TO BEST DOMINATE WHATEVER ENVIRONMENT THEY FIND THEMSELVES IN!

"EVERY GENERATION WILL REVEAL NEW AND TERRIFYING ADAPTATIONS."

THERE'S MORE, BUT THE FINER POINTS OF MY BRILLIANCE WOULD NO DOUBT BE LOST ON YOU.

SO TELL ME, WHAT MAKES YOUR PRECIOUS TOYMAKER WORTHY OF SUCH ADMIRATION, IN THE FACE OF MY UNRESTRAINED GENIUS?

KRAK

THAT SURE IS THE BOSS...

?

FZZT

ZZZAAAK

WHY IS IT DOING THAT...?

AH, THAT WOULD BE THE GATE OVERLOADING. IT'S NOT SAFE TO LEAVE SOMETHING IN THE ENERGY FIELD FOR LONG, IT COULD CAUSE A FEEDBACK LOOP.

OH GEEZ-- WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?

YOU DIDN'T ASK!

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S A FEEDBACK LOOP?

WHAT YOU'D EXPECT... RAPID EXPANSION OF THE ENERGY FIELD, UNTIL IT COLLAPSES UNDER ITS OWN WEIGHT AND IMPLODES.

"...DON'T WORRY, DESTRUCTION BY IMPLOSION IS QUICK AND ENTIRELY PAINLESS."

INCOMING!

WHAK

HAH!

BULLSEYE!

WHAM

THAT'S A NEW LOOK.

IT'S NICE TO BRANCH OUT A LITTLE FROM TIME TO TIME!

HEY, DOES EGGMAN SEEM AWFULLY QUIET TO ANYONE ELSE...?

AUTOPILOT DISENGAGED... *AUGH!*

WHAT HAVE YOU ANIMALS BEEN DOING TO MY BEAUTIFUL MACHINES?!

I'VE HAD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH...

...TRY AND DODGE THIS!

UP HERE!

CRASH

HURRY...!

I AM!

BOOM

WE CAN DO IT!

KZAAAK

AAH! QUICK! IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP IT, WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT BEFORE IT OVERLOADS COMPLETELY--

BEFORE WHAT OVERLOADS?

THE GATE, IT'S--LOOK!

GAH!

I-IT'S PULLING STUFF IN!

OKAY, YEAH-- LET'S GET GOING.

IT'S GETTING STRONGER!

HEY, YOU TWO! WHAT'S THE FASTEST WAY OUT OF HERE?

STRAIGHT AHEAD, THEN TAKE A RIGHT INTO THE LOADING BAY.

GOT IT. EVERYBODY GRAB ON!

SHOOM

BRRRRRRR

SONIC

SONIC

BWOOSH

KRELOK

WHOOMM

MMMMM

BZZAP!

GAH!

UGH...

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

CURIOUS... I'M NOT PICKING UP ANY SIGN OF THE TOWER. IT'S COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!

HEY, SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?

THE RESTORATION'S NOT ABOUT TO START TAKING PRISONERS...

LET THEM GO.

THEY'RE NOT THE ONE WHO DID THIS.

SHE'S RIGHT... WHATEVER THEY DO NOW, IT'S NOT OUR CALL.

SO WHAT, WE JUST TOSS 'EM OFF THE PLANE?

YES. THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR CUBOT AND I TO TAKE A SMALL SABBATICAL.

YEAH, AND A VACATION! WE'RE POOPED!

I CAN DIG IT. YOU SHOULD TRY AND GET METAL TO PLAY HOOKY TOO NEXT TIME!

POP

REST AND RELAXATION, HERE WE COME!

UH... BELLE? ARE YOU OKAY?

YES. NO. I-I'M FINE.

NOTHING HAPPENED.

...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I WAS BUILT BY A MAN NAMED MR. TINKER. SONIC, YOU SAVED HIM ONCE.*

WHEN HE DISAPPEARED, PEOPLE TOLD ME HE'D BEEN A MONSTER ALL ALONG... THAT HE WAS DR. EGGMAN. I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. I COULDN'T.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD JUST... COULD JUST TALK TO HIM, HE'D UNDERSTAND, A-AND EXPLAIN, AND--

*ISSUE 6--EDS.

OH, NO...

THAT... REALLY SUCKS. BUT HEY--

!

YOU HELPED DO SOMETHING GOOD TODAY!

YOUR DAD WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF YOU FOR THAT, RIGHT?

OH, I... I GUESS HE WOULD.

YEAH!

ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M GONNA TELL JEWEL ABOUT ALL THIS.

GOOD NEWS: WITH THE TOWER GONE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE STORM IS STARTING TO BREAK UP.

"IT SHOULD BE A SMOOTH FLIGHT BACK."

ART BY NATHALIE FOURDRAINE

Hedgehog Destruction - LIVE

EggPawnEF-XB2006: Wow! So good! Thank you Dr Eggman!

TheRealTrueActualSonic:

SSSSSScratchMan GET WRECKED BWAHAHAHA

jumpinSpirallemur04. BAD STREAM >.(((((((

GearsAndStarters: Um, does anyone know a Mr. Tinker?

StarsAndLines. Is this a joke? Doctor, I can't believe your using this setup. I expected better of you, but instead you'd rather devote resources into making a juvenile mindless streaming device to appease whom? Yourself? Please Unsubscribed.

StarsAndLines: *you're

ModOrbot: Spamming and backseating is not allowed in the chat.

[Comment removed]

Supergrounder93:

EggPawnMB-XB1991: Wow! So good! Thank you Dr. Eggman!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EGGMAN EMPIRE

ART BY JACK LAWRENCE COLORS BY LEONARDO ITO

ART BY JACK LAWRENCE COLORS BY LEONARDO ITO

ART BY JACK LAWRENCE COLORS BY LEONARDO ITO

ART BY JACK LAWRENCE COLORS BY LEONARDO ITO

ART BY BRACARDI CURRY COLORS BY MATT HERMS

ART BY GIGI DUTREIX COLORS BY REGGIE GRAHAM

ART BY JAMAL PEPPERS

ART BY THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER COLORS BY BRACARDI CURRY

ART BY **JONATHAN GRAY** COLORS BY **REGGIE GRAHAM**

ART BY **REGGIE GRAHAM**

ART BY **THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER** COLORS BY **BRACARDI CURRY**

ART BY GIGI DUTREIX

ART BY DAN SCHOENING COLORS BY LUIS ANTONIO DELGADO

ART BY EVAN STANLEY

ART BY EVAN STANLEY

SONIC'S GREATEST ENEMIES ARE BACK AND BADDER THAN EVER!

To enact his latest scheme, Dr. Starline will have to break into an abandoned Dr. Eggman base and past an army of Badniks. To do that, he'll need to enlist the help of Mimic, Zavok, Rough, and Tumble. Then, hold on to your chili dogs, Sonic fans! The Metal Virus is gone, but things aren't back to normal. Omega is damaged, and his allies turn to Team Sonic for help. The only way to rebuild him is to trade parts with a mysterious champion Chao racer, so it's off to the races for Cream, Cheese, Amy, and Rouge!

But when Dr. Eggman unleashes his latest attack, Sonic and Tails will have to rely on their friends to help them foil his newest dastardly plan. Plus, there's a new kid on the block! And a new...tower? While Tangle tries to initiate the new recruit, Belle, into the Restoration, Sonic, Tails, and Amy investigate a mysterious structure that has popped up. Turns out, it's a maze of twisting corridors and crazy challenges!

Collecting the *Sonic the Hedgehog* stories in reading order, Volume 4 features the *Bad Guys* miniseries, plus issues #33–40 of the ongoing *Sonic the Hedgehog* series by writers **Ian Flynn** and **Evan Stanley** with artists **Jack Lawrence, Aaron Hammerstrom, Adam Bryce Thomas,** and **Bracardi Curry.**

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